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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 08, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Trump:

Thank you for your recent visit to Louisiana to view the devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Laura and for your quick issuance and subsequent amendments to the Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-4559-DR-LA.) I am writing today to ask that you use your authority to proactively grant a cost share adjustment for the Public Assistance portion of the Declaration to help communities already experiencing a significant decrease in revenue due to COVID-19.

As you know, during the early morning hours of August 27, 2020, Hurricane Laura made landfall in Cameron Parish, Louisiana near the Louisiana-Texas state line. The storm continued moving north bringing over 100 mph winds into populated areas well into northern portions of the state, which caused devastating property losses. State and local capabilities were already stretched to the limits by the extreme economic impact triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID19 impact has placed tremendous stress on precious emergency response resources and have diminished local and state revenue sources, issues that have been exacerbated by Hurricane Laura.

I have complete faith that our Governor will navigate Louisiana through the recovery effort and ultimately he deserves our full support in that daunting task. This request reflects my personal support for our local and State government entities as we struggle through recovery from unprecedented storm damage. Granting a cost share adjustment for Public Assistance funds recognizes that the scale of the current declared disaster, added to the extreme negative economic effects of COVID-19, leave our state and local governments unable to absorb 25 percent of the recovery costs. Therefore, I ask that you take into account the devastating impact of hurricane

Laura, in conjunction with the economic damage caused by COVID-19 shutdowns and consider a cost share adjustment to 90 percent federal share.

Thank you again your commitment to making Louisiana whole. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your Administration to ensure that Louisiana has the resources it needs to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Laura.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress