

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1803**

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Joseph Biden  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden:

Nearly nine months have passed since Hurricanes Laura and Delta devastated Southwest Louisiana. Two major hurricanes hitting the same parishes a month apart presented significant challenges and requires an extended, large-scale recovery effort. On May 17, 2021, the area again experienced torrential rainfall that resulted in significant flooding for homes and businesses. These new floods present new challenges to families that have still not recovered or been made whole from the 2020 hurricanes. As these communities continue to rebuild and recover, they will need continued assistance from the federal government.

Congress and the federal government have worked together to provide resources to support housing and rental assistance, utility repairs, debris removal, hazard mitigation, and many other disaster response costs. You delivered increased federal assistance in the form of a 100% federal cost-share for 30 days and a 90% federal cost-share for remaining Hurricane Laura public assistance program expenses. These federal commitments have greatly eased the financial burden for local governments.

While these efforts help address Southwest Louisiana's immediate needs, there is a need for long-term recovery resources for the region, especially in light of this major rain flooding event. Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards wrote to you in January 2021 with a request for additional funding for hurricane recovery and mitigation efforts, which my office supports.

For nine months, the Louisiana delegation has been working to build support in Congress for supplemental disaster relief. As you know, supplemental disaster relief programs greatly streamline direct access to recovery monies for local governments, small businesses, and individuals. I respectfully urge you to expedite a request to Congress for a disaster supplemental to provide the region with specific funding for the CDBG Disaster Recovery Grants, as well as additional funds for mitigation efforts.

I respectfully urge you to swiftly implement a supplemental disaster relief plan that provides for the many thousands of severely impacted Americans in Southwest Louisiana.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress