

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

October 29, 2020

Administrator Pete Gaynor
Federal Emergency Management Administration
Office of the Administrator
500 C Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20472

Administrator Pete Gaynor,

Sir, thank you for the continued attention you and President Trump have given to the Louisiana communities that have been devastated by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Widespread damage in the region has displaced many Southwest Louisiana residents while at the same time rendering their homes unlivable. With widespread damage restricting the options of many individuals to stay temporarily with friends, family, or in privately owned rentals, and a complete lack of community shelters due to the State of Louisiana's COVID restrictions, we are faced with an imminent housing crisis in the impacted areas.

During your visit to Louisiana, you witnessed the devastation that the two hurricanes brought to the Gulf Coast region. During your visit, we discussed the urgent need for Temporary Housing Units (T.H.U.'s) to shelter families that can no longer safely live in their homes. Since that time, it has come to my attention that 7,747 households meet the criteria to receive temporary housing assistance from FEMA. Currently, out of the households that meet the requirements, 1,468 households have received final approval and are awaiting placement into an installed Temporary Housing Unit. To date, roughly 25 families have been placed in temporary housing units. I am concerned FEMA is falling behind on Temporary Housing Unit installations for approved families that have gone through the pre-placement interview. South Louisianans relying on temporary housing through FEMA must receive those quickly to start their recovery process.

My office has been advised that FEMA is having difficulties obtaining commercial properties with enough capacity to place the needed number of Temporary Housing Units. I ask that FEMA solicit the vast number of commercial properties in the region identify locations where temporary units can be placed expeditiously. I also ask that, in lieu of suitable existing sites, FEMA consider constructing group sites to address these shortages and place temporary housing for survivors.

Again, I respectfully request FEMA's immediate action to expedite the installation of Temporary Housing Units for individuals and families that have been displaced from their homes due to Hurricanes Laura and Delta. I look forward to working with you in delivering the resources to support Louisiana's recovery efforts after such widespread destruction.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress