

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

October 5, 2021

Deanne Criswell
FEMA Administrator
500 C St. SW,
Washington, D.C. 20024

Administrator Criswell,

Thank you for participating in today's Oversight and Reform Committee hearing on Hurricane Ida recovery efforts. Your commitment to assisting both rural and urban communities affected by natural disasters is promising. As discussed, I have concerns over the progress made on Public Assistance applications from Hurricane Laura (DR-4559) and Hurricane Delta (DR-4570). Southwest Louisiana is appreciative of the \$1.6 billion that FEMA and other agencies have delivered to help with immediate response costs. However, this is insufficient for what is needed for long-term recovery.

As we discussed in the hearing, FEMA's response and handling of disaster recovery programs are a top concern for all the citizens of Louisiana. When we discuss timely responses and delivery of disaster programs, every minute counts. Getting reimbursements to state and local entities promptly is critical to the overall recovery effort. Please see below the summary of entities with outstanding Public Assistance applications:

- **Calcasieu Parish School Board (CPSB)¹**: Project Reference Numbers 171077, 163432, 163446, 171095, 163444, 171084. Additionally, CSPB has 105 Public Assistance (PA) applications that remain outstanding:
 - 2 Category A projects: \$2,000,000
 - 21 Category B projects: \$139,251,305.80
 - 82 Category E projects: \$177,758,731.60
- **Cameron Parish²**: Total estimated damage costs unfulfilled - \$44,061,449.99
- **Jeff Davis Parish Police Jury³**: Total estimated damage costs unfulfilled - \$1,192,000.00
- **City of Jennings**: Project Reference Numbers 171136, 161861, 161025, 161026
- **Port of Lake Charles⁴**: Project Reference Numbers 173115, 165528, 161512, 161519
- **West Calcasieu Port⁵**: Project Reference Number 160575
- **Lake Charles Regional Airport⁶**: Outstanding issues regarding FEMA's Consensus-based Codes, Specifications and Standards' (CBCSS) process requirement

1) CPSB_FEMA_Ltr_8.10.21
2) Cameron Parish_FEMA_Ltr_9.17.21
3) Jeff Davis Parish PJ_FEMA Issues
4) Port of Lake Charles_FEMA Issues
5) West Calcasieu Port_FEMA Issues
6) Lake Charles Regional Airport_FEMA Issues

- **Chennault International Airport:** \$4,000,000 in outstanding submissions.

I look forward to your reply and working with you to improve the agency's response to natural disasters.

Regards,



Clay Higgins,
Member of Congress