



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

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice-Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Leahy, Vice-Chairman Shelby, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

As you finalize negotiations ahead of the upcoming budget deadline, I again urge you to include additional disaster funding for South Louisiana's unmet hurricane recovery needs.

Hurricanes Laura, Delta, Zeta, and Ida dealt devastating blows to South Louisiana, all within an 18-month period. Layered on top of those disasters were a severe winter storm and historic flood event that further damaged homes and public infrastructure. These are unprecedented circumstances, which warrant long-term recovery resources beyond what has already been appropriated through Congress.

While I appreciate the opportunity to work with appropriators to secure \$5 billion for the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in the September Continuing Resolution, Louisiana's share is insufficient to meet long-term recovery needs. Of the \$2 billion presently allocated through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Louisiana received \$600,131,000 for areas impacted by Hurricanes Laura and Delta to use for housing, infrastructure, and disaster mitigation needs. However, the State of Louisiana estimates a \$300 million shortfall for housing needs alone. The total unmet need, including public infrastructure and disaster mitigation, is even greater. This is without consideration of Hurricane Ida, which has yet to receive a CDBG-DR allocation.

The Louisiana congressional delegation addressed these concerns and outlined unmet needs in a similar letter dated February 18, 2022. As we approach the upcoming deadline, I again urge you to include additional CDBG-DR funding for 2020 and 2021 natural disasters in any spending measure that moves forward. For many months, we have advocated for increased funding in support of South Louisiana's long-term recovery mission. I humbly ask for your assistance in fulfilling these urgent needs.

Further, I understand Congress intends to advance \$10 billion in emergency funding and armaments for Ukraine. Though I support this endeavor in principle, we cannot send taxpayer dollars to a foreign war effort while neglecting the needs of citizens here in the United States. Any spending measure, whether it be an omnibus or a short-term continuing resolution, is incomplete without additional disaster funding for South Louisiana.

I look forward to your response and working with you to provide additional disaster funding for South Louisiana.

Respectfully,

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

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress