



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

October 14, 2020

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

President Trump,

I write to you today in support of a major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Delta. The damage caused by this storm, as well as the already existing devastation in the region caused by Hurricane Laura, will have long-lasting effects on the people of Louisiana and its economy.

As you know, on October 9, 2020, Hurricane Delta made landfall at Creole, Louisiana, just east of where Hurricane Laura first touched the state. The storm continued moving north bringing high winds and heavy rains into populated areas, which caused devastating property losses. State and local capabilities are overwhelmed not only by the current emergency, which occurred against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also from existing damage from Tropical Storm Cristobal and Hurricanes Marco and Laura that impacted the same region this hurricane season. These events have placed tremendous stress on precious emergency response resources, and we ask that you consider these extenuating circumstances when allocating Public and Individual Assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Governor of the State of Louisiana, John Bel Edwards, has made a formal request for an expedited declaration to include Individual Assistance; and debris removal and emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance under the Public Assistance program for Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vermilion Parishes; and Hazard Mitigation statewide. With the Governor's prompt request, the issuance of a major disaster declaration and the authorization of public and individual assistance, the full weight of the federal government can be deployed into the impacted areas to assist those in need and begin rebuilding.

Again, I respectfully request that the federal government issue a major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana. As elected officials, we must do all we can to assist affected Americans in their time of need. These resources must be quickly made available to equip our state and local governments to respond rapidly and effectively to Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay Higgins".

Clay Higgins
United States Congressman