

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

October 27, 2020

The Honorable Jovita Carranza  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 3rd Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza,

We write today to request that you immediately extend the October 27 deadline for survivors of Hurricane Laura to apply for Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster assistance for property damage. Earlier today, FEMA announced a 30-day extension for Laura victims to register for assistance. The new registration deadline is November 27. We encourage you to apply the same 30-day extension in line with this date.

Hurricane Laura was one of the most powerful hurricanes to strike Louisiana, and there are still thousands of households and businesses without power or internet access in Louisiana. Recovery efforts in the area were impacted by Hurricane Delta, which further contributed to delays in the recovery process. Given the unique circumstances with multiple hurricanes and the ongoing pandemic, we believe this extension is warranted.

As you are familiar, Hurricane Laura destroyed infrastructure associated with the power grid, which impacted electricity and telecommunications for hundreds-of-thousands of residents in Louisiana. With the extensive damage to the area and the additional challenges caused by Hurricane Delta and COVID-19, our constituents need additional time to apply for federal assistance. The 30-day extension period would allow additional victims to apply and receive financial assistance.

While the national media quickly moved on from this disaster, our constituents have not. Louisianans affected by Hurricane Laura must now contend with the difficulty of rebuilding their lives during the most dangerous hurricane season on record and also a global pandemic.

Thank you for the consideration of this request and for the ongoing work of the SBA to assist in the recovery efforts for our constituents. We look forward to continuing to work with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy  
U.S. Senator



Clay Higgins  
U.S. Representative