

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

November 23, 2021

Alejandra Y. Castillo
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Assistant Secretary Castillo,

I am writing in support of Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning and Development Commission's (IMCAL) grant application for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge to support the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) industry in Southwest Louisiana. This proposal is in conformity with the current Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) for the Regional Planning Commission.

The proposed LNG Support Projects provide an opportunity for reliable broadband to expand across the region as well as increase public exposure to STEM education, training and employment for underserved populations. Southwest Louisiana has faced continuing economic adjustments in response to five federal declared disasters within one year including the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, direct hits by historic hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020, a catastrophic freeze in February and unprecedented flooding in May 2021. LNG is a vital asset to Louisiana's economy and this grant funding would significantly improve recovery and resiliency efforts for Southwest Louisiana's as a whole.

IMCAL is a highly qualified entity for this grant funding. LNG support projects directly contribute to the economic rebound of Southwest Louisiana and I support this proposal.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

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Deanne Criswell
FEMA Administrator
500 C St SW,
Washington, DC 20024

Administrator Criswell,

I write in support of the City of Lake Charles' grant application for the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. An award from this program will assist the region's recovery efforts after numerous federally declared natural disasters caused widespread devastation

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program aims to shift focus from reacting to damage caused by natural disasters to proactively preparing communities to mitigate storm damage. Hurricanes Laura and Delta made landfall in Southwest Louisiana, exposing necessary upgrades to better prepare and create resilient communities in the region. These opportunities will shift the focus from recovery to preparation to help mitigate future damage. The City of Lake Charles' application aims to achieve BRIC's hazard mitigation and community resiliency goal by addressing current recovery needs and mitigating future natural disasters through data-driven initiatives.

I fully support the City of Lake Charles' application for FEMA's BRIC grant program. I look forward to working with you in delivering the resources to support Louisiana's recovery efforts after such widespread destruction throughout the state.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

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Deanne Criswell
FEMA Administrator
500 C St SW,
Washington, DC 20024

Administrator Criswell,

With the passing of the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Laura's landfall, Southwest Louisiana continues its recovery process. The Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) assistance in mitigating future natural disasters during recovery from past disasters is crucial to ensuring the resiliency of our communities along the Gulf Coast.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments so they can rebuild in ways that reduce or mitigate future damages in their communities. With numerous federally declared disasters in Southwest Louisiana, these funds are needed to enhance and harden critical infrastructure. The City of Lake Charles is actively pursuing projects that will better position Southwest Louisiana after future disasters and allow a quicker recovery process. In addition, these funds will enhance the City's abilities to leverage state and local funds to ensure needed projects are undertaken without financial constraints.

I fully support the City of Lake Charles' request for HMGP funds through FEMA. I look forward to working with you in delivering the resources to support and expedite Louisiana's recovery efforts after such widespread destruction throughout the state.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

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Marcia L. Fudge
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.,
Washington, DC 20410

Secretary Fudge,

I write in support of the City of Lake Charles Housing Authority's grant application for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Choice Neighborhood grant program. Over a year after tHurricanes Laura and Delta devastated the region, Lake Charles neighborhoods are still experiencing a severe housing shortage.

HUD's Choice Neighborhood grant program aims to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Prior to the Hurricanes, the City of Lake Charles was already dealing with housing issues due to expanding industry in the area. A year after these devastating natural disasters, those seeking to return home are now experiencing widespread shortages. The Lake Charles Housing Authority application, if granted, will utilize public-private partnerships to address these challenges in the public housing sector.

I fully support the Lake Charles Housing Authority's application for HUD's Choice Neighborhood grant program. I look forward to working with you in delivering these resources to support Louisiana's recovery efforts.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress