

United States Senate

October 26, 2020

The Honorable Pete Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor,

We write today to request that you immediately extend the October 27 deadline for survivors of Hurricane Laura to register for FEMA assistance for a period of 30-days. Hurricane Laura was one of the most powerful hurricanes to strike Louisiana, and there are still thousands of households 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 the 30-day extension period is necessary.

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. As noted in communications to the delegation, federal assistance may include help for temporary housing, rental assistance and repair or replacement of damaged property, and to help with other expenses such as medical care, childcare, and funeral services. The 30-day extension period would allow additional victims to apply and receive these types of critical 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 FEMA to assist in the recovery efforts for our constituents. We look forward to continuing to work with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator

John Kennedy

John Kennedy
U.S. Senator

Clay Higgins

Clay Higgins
U.S. Representative

Steve Scalise

Steve Scalise
U.S. Representative

Garret Graves

Garret Graves
U.S. Representative

Ralph Abraham, M.D.

Ralph Abraham, M.D.
U.S. Representative

Mike Johnson

Mike Johnson
U.S. Representative