

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2020

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

President Trump,

We write to you today in support of a major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana in the wake of Hurricanes Laura and Marco. The damage caused by these storms will have long-lasting effects on the people of Louisiana and its economy.

As you know, during the early morning hours of August 27, 2020, Hurricane Laura made landfall in Cameron Parish, Louisiana near the Louisiana-Texas state line. The storm continued moving north bringing over 100 mph winds 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 from existing damage from Tropical Storm Cristobal and Hurricane Marco 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 a declaration to include the Louisiana Parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Vermilion, Catahoula, Grant, La Salle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, Vernon, Winn, Bienville, Claiborne, Red River, Caldwell, Jackson, Lincoln, Ouachita, and Union. With 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 affected areas to assist those in need and begin rebuilding.

Again, we 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 Marco.

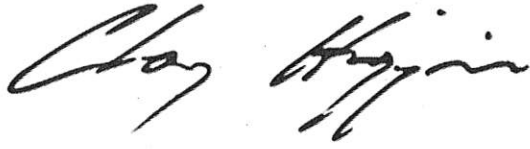
Sincerely,



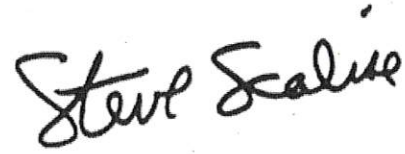
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senate



John Kennedy
United States Senate



Clay Higgins
United States Congressman



Steve Scalise
United States Congressman



Garret Graves
United States Congressman



Ralph Abraham
United States Congressman



Cedric Richmond
United States Congressman



Mike Johnson
United States Congressman