

United States Senate

May 18, 2021

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
JUDICIARY
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I am writing today to urge you to direct your administration to submit a request for supplemental disaster appropriations to the U.S. Congress. I will strongly support your efforts to provide emergency resources to ensure a robust recovery in our Louisiana's communities, which are still reeling from hurricane-related damage.

In particular, I ask that you request emergency appropriations for the many federal agencies with experience in long-term disaster recovery who are standing by and well equipped to provide relief to families in Louisiana and take action to protect life and property ahead of the next disaster. These include the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as other programs provided by the Economic Development Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Coast Guard, and emergency appropriations for federal highways. I believe this action will allow Louisiana to recover in the most efficient manner possible.

Last year was the most active hurricane season in American history. Louisiana was in the predicted path for a record-breaking six storms. Of those, five categorized storms hit Louisiana, affecting all sixty-four parishes across the state. The most powerful of these storms, Hurricane Laura, hit Southwest Louisiana as a Category 4 storm and is one of the strongest storms to make landfall in American history. Unfortunately, the physical damages to homes, businesses, and infrastructure were extensive. Hurricane Laura was the most expensive weather event of the year, costing an estimated \$19 billion in damages. Hurricane Delta further compounded the damage when it made landfall in the same area just forty-two days later. Louisiana's citizens are resilient, but our state and local resources cannot cope with these hurricanes' severity and frequency without emergency supplemental assistance.

Thank you for your diligent work to provide Louisiana with the best response and recovery that America offers. I remain ready to work together on legislation needed to provide emergency supplemental appropriations if requested to the U.S. Congress.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy
United States Senator