

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 3, 2025

The Honorable Isabel Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

RE: Request for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to Provide Assistance in the form of SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Orleans Parish

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We are writing to express our strong support for Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry's request for a Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Declaration for Orleans Parish. This request seeks to provide essential assistance in the form of SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans to small businesses adversely affected by the tragic terrorist attack in the French Quarter on January 1, 2025.

The French Quarter has long been a cornerstone of cultural identity and economic activity for New Orleans, dating back three centuries. Today, the neighborhood attracts millions of visitors annually and supports countless small businesses and their employees. This violent attack not only caused physical devastation, including the deaths of at least fifteen individuals and dozens of additional injuries, but also disrupted commerce, tourism, and the livelihoods of residents. Small businesses in the area are now grappling with lost revenue, property damage, and the challenges of rebuilding their operations after this tragic terrorist attack.

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans would provide these businesses with much-needed financial relief, enabling them to cover operating expenses, repair damages, and stabilize their operations during this difficult time. These loans are critical to preserving an economic lifeline in New Orleans.

We urge the SBA to swiftly grant this declaration and extend support to French Quarter and downtown New Orleans businesses. By providing this assistance, the SBA will play a pivotal role in helping New Orleans overcome the economic challenges posed by this devastating terrorist attack.

Thank you for urgently considering this request.


Sincerely,


Troy A. Carter Sr.
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Majority Leader


John Kennedy
United States Senator


Dr. Bill Cassidy
United States Senator


Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House


Clay Higgins
Member of Congress


Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
Member of Congress