

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D.  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Carson,

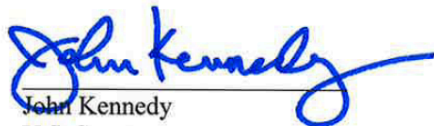
We are requesting your immediate attention to ongoing disaster recovery issues in Louisiana. It is unacceptable that bureaucracy is further slowing the recovery efforts of many homeowners impacted by flooding in 2016. As you are aware, Louisiana homeowners depend on your department to issue specific guidance to obtain Community Disaster Block Grants (CDBG) for disaster recovery. We urge you to take immediate action to deliver relief to our state.

Nearly 6,000 Louisianians are waiting for HUD to issue legal guidance to unlock access to CDBG recovery assistance. These individuals obtained loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration and were previously denied access to CDBG and the Restore Louisiana recovery grant program because of it. Congress passed legislation to fix this issue, which has been signed into law by President Trump. Your department must quickly issue a policy to allow individuals to use CDBG funds for the specific purpose of paying back SBA disaster loans. It is the intent of Congress to permit these flood victims to access Restore Louisiana recovery grants. We strongly urge you to observe Congressional intent and issue the required guidance as quickly as possible.

We are aware that you have two HUD nominees awaiting confirmation before the Senate: Mr. Robert Kurtz and Mr. Seth Appleton. When HUD officially publishes guidance to allow Louisiana homeowners to access disaster recovery grants and observes Congressional intent related to duplication of benefits, we will end our efforts to block your nominees.

Thank you for your prompt attention. We respectfully ask that you implement our request as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy  
U.S. Senator



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