

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 24, 2017

The Honorable Brock Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472-0001

Dear Administrator Long:

We are writing to request an extension of the September 1st deadline for National Flood Insurance Program policyholders to file a Proof of Loss (POL) for claims related to the Louisiana Great Flood of 2016, which has been called the worst natural disaster to strike the United States since Hurricane Sandy.


Based on the information released last week by FEMA, it appears that approximately 10% of the 29,621 policyholders affected by the flood still have an open claim. Our offices have received numerous complaints from policyholders regarding delays in filing original and supplemental POLs on their claims. Their concerns include but are not limited to:

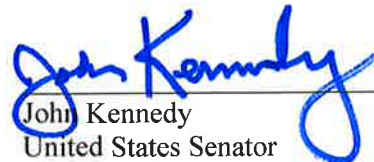
- Their adjustors are not communicating with them;
- Their adjustor quit or retired before completing their POL;
- Their file was lost before the POL was complete;
- They felt pressured to agree to an original POL with a promise of assistance to file a supplemental POL only not to receive assistance with the supplemental POL; and,
- Their adjustor left Louisiana and their unfinished POL to work on a disaster in another state.

We have been told by state insurance officials that FEMA does not intend to extend the deadline. This is very troubling. FEMA provided victims of Hurricane Sandy two years to submit their proofs of loss, so we are perplexed as to why our constituents are entitled to only half that amount of time. We can assure you that information is not more quickly disseminated here than it was there. We can also assure you that it is no easier in the Baton Rouge area to find a good contractor than it was for Sandy victims after that hurricane.

For the sake of the policyholders who dutifully paid their premiums and have been unable to file an original or supplemental POL due to forces outside of their control, we respectfully request that FEMA provide an extension to the deadline so they do not become a victim of the flood a second time.

Sincerely,


Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator


John Kennedy
United States Senator