

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2016

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

In the midst of ongoing flooding and recovery efforts across the State of Louisiana, we write you to respectfully request that FEMA consider the totality of all of this year's major declared disasters within the State when deciding whether to recommend a public assistance cost-share adjustment to the President.

Federal law requires that FEMA consider the impact of major disaster declarations in the State during the preceding twelve-month period. Given this and the severity of these successive disasters, we respectfully request that FEMA consider all disasters as one when determining whether Louisiana has met the threshold for a recommendation to the President for a cost-share adjustment from 75 percent to 90 percent.

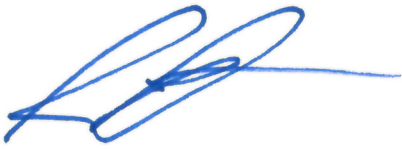
The recent flooding in South Louisiana has been more devastating than anyone could have imagined. Hundreds of thousands of our citizens have been displaced from their homes. In one parish alone, as many as 75 percent of homes are believed to have been destroyed. This recovery effort will be long and arduous, and the total cost will remain unknown for some time. All of this devastation in South Louisiana comes on the heels of another major declared flooding disaster this year in Central and Northeast Louisiana, the cost of which is still being tallied. To date, FEMA has expended just over \$100 million dollars for that disaster, a number that is continuing to rise.

Despite FEMA's investments, the unique nature of these successive major disasters is putting a severe strain on State and local resources. In total, 49 of Louisiana's 64 parishes have been affected, and every Congressional District in the State has had a portion declared in both events. As State and local governments are still grappling with the scale of damage in the spring flood, critical resources and attention are being diverted to the current situation in South Louisiana. The cost of the disaster in South Louisiana will almost certainly meet the threshold for a cost-share adjustment, and it remains possible that that spring flooding in other parts of the State will reach that threshold as well. Treating these events separately will only delay critical funding that the State and local governments desperately need.

Louisiana's citizens have faced adversity before, but they are resilient and will rebuild stronger than ever. Thank you for your consideration of our request. The Federal government, and

particularly FEMA, has been a critical partner in past rebuilding efforts, and we are thankful for all of the assistance you have and continue to provide.

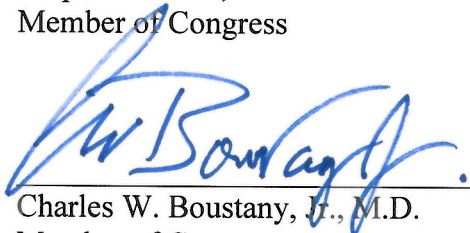
Sincerely,



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



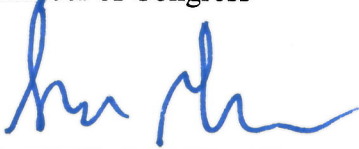
John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.
Member of Congress



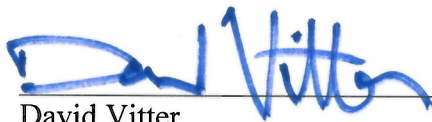
Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



David Vitter
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator