

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2016

The Honorable Julian Castro
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

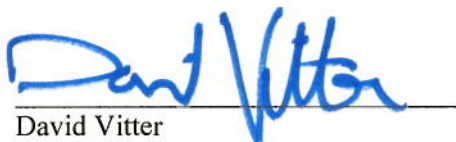
Dear Secretary Castro:

We urge you to act swiftly to expedite and disburse the recently appropriated Community Development Block Grant funding to help with flooding disasters, the vast majority of which is clearly meant to help flood victims in Louisiana. As you are aware, the Red Cross has stated that the flooding in South Louisiana this past August was the worst natural disaster since Superstorm Sandy, and FEMA has also said it will end up being the fourth most expensive natural disaster in the last twelve years. Combined with the devastating floods this spring, Louisiana is in urgent need of immediate assistance.

The recently passed continuing resolution clearly states that these funds should go to disasters that "occurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act." Louisiana families who were devastated by these storms, many of whom did not have flood insurance policies through no fault of their own, should not have to wait for any sort of bureaucratic entanglement to receive money meant for their recovery.

It was a pleasure having you visit Louisiana to tour the floods on August 26. At that time, you stated, "We're going to do everything we can to make sure we hit our mark at HUD and that folks are able to get back into their homes as soon as possible." We're certainly grateful for your commitment to Louisiana, and in order for your agency to uphold your assurances, these CDBG dollars must be quickly and accurately disbursed. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your commitment to the families and communities suffering in Louisiana.

Sincerely,



David Vitter
U.S. Senator



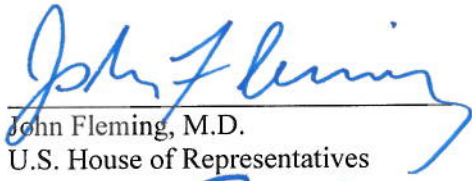
Charles Boustany, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives



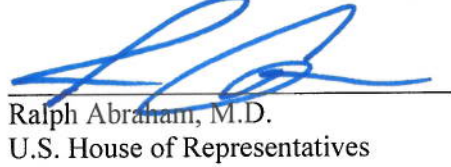
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator



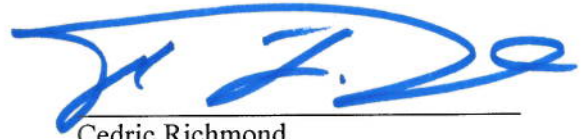
Steve Scalise
U.S. House of Representatives



John Fleming, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives



Cedric Richmond
U.S. House of Representatives



Garret Graves
U.S. House of Representatives