

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McCarthy and Whip Scalise:

As you know, Texas has been adversely affected by several severe weather events. Since November 2015, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued five major disaster declarations in response to flooding, severe storms, tornadoes, and straight-line winds in Texas. We are writing to request that you include Texas disaster funding in any supplemental appropriations bill that is considered in the coming months.

According to estimates from the Texas General Land Office, the State of Texas needs \$173 million in additional funding to recover from the 2015 floods and approximately \$416 million in funding to recover from the 2016 floods. The \$416 million figure for 2016 is a preliminary estimate using assumptions from the 2015 damages. It does not include losses to the tax base, property valuations, sales tax revenues, or agricultural impacts.

The severe weather events in Texas have been incredibly destructive and costly. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s recent evaluation of the weather and climate disasters that took place in the first half of 2016, five of the eight disasters with losses exceeding \$1 billion occurred in Texas. It is important that Congress act to ensure the families and communities devastated by these disasters have the resources they need to continue their recovery efforts and to mitigate future damage.

We are immensely grateful for the swift, coordinated response by FEMA, state, and local governments. However, the recovery from these storms continues to be a lengthy and costly task. For example, in Harris County, where two catastrophic flooding events occurred in less than a year, it has been estimated that \$25 billion in additional funding is needed to mitigate the devastating flooding from 100 year storm events. Congress must provide the aid and assistance to the people and communities affected by these storms. Any effort to ensure assistance is provided to those in need during these very difficult times would, we hope, receive strong, bipartisan support.

We urge you to give expeditious consideration to our request for supplemental funding to help Texas recover from these disasters. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

John Callaway
Mary Cullen

Mark
Petra Ol TX22

Kathy TX-11

Jim Carter TX31

Mike

Key

Randy

Will B. TX23

John Bowler

Robert

Randy K. Weber

Jim

Jim

Robert

Rubin Hinojosa

Joaquin Castro

Michael T. McCall

Pete Sessions

Fred Vale

Kevin Bundy

Roger Williams

Sam Johnson

Lamar Smith

M. C. [unclear] Tx 26

Bebo O'Rourke.

M. V. [unclear]

Jim Edin

Blake Fathall

John Ratcliffe

Hal Dorsett

Steve Jackson Lee

Edna Bernice Johnson