

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear President Biden:

Thank you for your prompt action to issue an emergency declaration for the State of Louisiana due to the recent winter weather event that began on February 11, 2021. We are confident the federal resources unlocked by that declaration saved life and property as our communities responded to the crisis. The recovery process is now underway, and it is apparent additional federal assistance is warranted. As such, we respectfully ask that you grant the State of Louisiana's request for a major disaster declaration.

As you are aware, many of the characteristics of this recent weather event were unprecedented, and its impacts stretched across huge swaths of the state. At the event's peak, more than 200,000 Louisianians were without electricity, and seven hospitals and six nursing homes relied upon generators as their sole source of electricity.

The most significant impact, however, came in the form of disruptions to the delivery of water to impacted areas. Due to damaged water mains and related distribution infrastructure, roughly one-quarter of the state's population experienced either a loss of access to safe drinking water or a loss of access to water altogether. These disruptions extended to hospitals and nursing homes, where bulk water was brought in via truck to continue services to our most vulnerable populations. All told, 63 of Louisiana's 64 parishes issued emergency declarations in response to this event, and tragically, the state reports six fatalities stemming from the treacherous weather.

In addition to these considerations, we remain concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic and a record-setting 2020 hurricane season have placed a tremendous strain on the state's ability to effectively recover from February's winter weather event. In fact, the emergency declaration you issued for this event marks the tenth federal emergency or disaster the state has experienced in the past 24 months. For these reasons, we ask that you grant the State of Louisiana's request for a federal disaster declaration as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



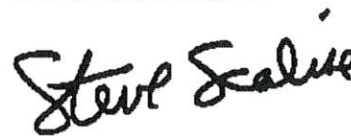
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Clay Higgins in black ink.

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Garret Graves in blue ink.

Garret Graves
Member of Congress