

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer and Leader Pelosi:

First, let us thank you and your colleagues for the assistance you have provided for recovery efforts from the various disasters that have impacted our respective states in recent years. Without this assistance, our recoveries would be slowed and our people's unmet needs would be vast. With the funding provided so far, we are making good progress in getting people back into their homes, getting businesses and farmers back to work, and rebuilding rental housing stock. We must note, however, that the recovery funds allocated to our states so far have been inadequate to make meaningful investments in the infrastructure that can protect our people and property from future disasters. Billions of dollars have collectively been invested into the repairs of our impacted communities, from both public and private sources, and those investments are currently at risk in the face the next storm events. In order to prevent the need for repetitive public and private investment in the expensive recovery of our nation's communities, funding is critically needed for real investments in infrastructure enhancements that can increase both the safety and resilience of our respective states.

We are aware that President Trump has requested that Congress appropriate \$12 billion in Community Development Block Grants for infrastructure enhancements to be allocated through a competitive program to grantees impacted by two or more disasters in the past four years. Each of our states meets those criteria, as do Texas and Florida. We understand the huge impacts that Harvey and Irma had on these states, and do not wish to minimize their experiences. We also understand, though, that our communities suffered immensely from recent disasters and are still in great need of funding to protect the recovery investments that have been made in response to those disasters. Without the necessary infrastructure enhancements needed to protect our communities from the next storm events, we risk experiencing repetitive losses and wasting precious public and private resources. Therefore, we ask, by this letter, that the entire pool of

funding appropriated for infrastructure be available to all eligible grantees, so we may all compete on an equal footing for the funds we so desperately need to protect our communities and the public funds invested to date.

Sincerely,



Governor John Bel Edwards  
Louisiana



Governor Asa Hutchinson  
Arkansas



Governor Brian Sandoval  
Nevada



Governor Bill Walker  
Alaska



Governor Phil Scott  
Vermont



Governor Phil Bryant  
Mississippi

cc: Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
Thad Cochran, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Louisiana Congressional Delegation  
Arkansas Congressional Delegation  
Nevada Congressional Delegation  
Alaska Congressional Delegation  
Vermont Congressional Delegation  
Mississippi Congressional Delegation