

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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October 5, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: 42 U.S.C. 5155(b)(4) Waiver Request

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the many citizens in the State of Louisiana impacted by the historic floods of March and August 2016, as well as the many other victims of natural disasters across the county, thank you for your continued work to improve the nation's support of citizens as they seek to recover from devastating events. Your signature on Public Law 115-250, amending the Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act and allowing greater flexibility in the coordination of federal resources, will provide great relief for many suffering citizens.

Under the newly enacted provisions of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5155(b)(4), I am formally requesting that you issue a limited waiver of any duplication of benefits requirements for funding which has been appropriated by Congress under Public Laws 114-223, 114-254 and 115-31, subsequently or hereafter awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the State of Louisiana through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Specifically, to the extent that an applicant under those CDBG programs has been determined eligible and approved to receive a loan for the same purpose as the CDBG funding, and the current implementation of the Stafford Act's prohibition of duplication of benefits treats that loan as a duplication of benefits with the CDBG funds, I request that you waive that duplication of benefits requirement as mandated by 42 U.S.C. 5155(b)(4)(C).

The State of Louisiana anticipates that the greatest impact of this waiver will be in the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program, a program designed to repair or reconstruct damaged homes as well as reimburse homeowners for work already completed, in which thousands of homeowners received loans intended for home structural repairs from the Small Business Administration. I have previously addressed this issue with you and Secretary Carson.

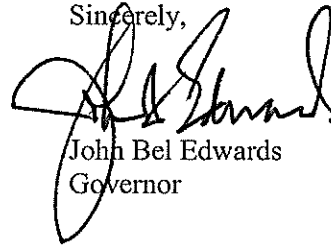
As we implement this waiver, to adhere to the requirement that all Federal assistance be used toward a loss suffered as a result of the floods, when applicable in issuing payments to eligible grant recipients reimbursing for prior work performed, the SBA will be included as a payee on the check. For any prospective work remaining to be performed and funded by the program, it is imperative that homeowners be able to complete any repairs or reconstruction, so payments will continue to be made to the homeowners and their contractors under the program policies and procedures. The SBA has a mortgage on the damaged home being improved and has the appropriate means through its loan agreements

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to effectuate a repayment needed, if any, resulting from use of Restore Louisiana funds utilized to complete the repairs.

Again, I applaud your continued work in assisting victims of natural disasters and look forward to receipt of the requested waiver.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a prominent initial "J".

John Bel Edwards
Governor