

Office of the Governor  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



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November 27, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the many residents of Louisiana who were impacted by the historic floods of March and August 2016, I would like to thank you and Congress for the assistance that has been provided to expedite our recovery efforts. While much progress has been made, for more than 6,000 Louisiana families, another Thanksgiving has passed, and they are still being unjustly penalized because Small Business Administration (SBA) loans have been considered a Duplication of Benefits (DOB) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

On Oct. 5, 2018, you signed Public Law 115-250 (the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018), amending the Stafford Act that allowed the State of Louisiana to request a waiver of any requirements to consider SBA loans as a duplication of benefits DOB to funding appropriated by Congress to the State of Louisiana through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for disaster recovery. Within an hour of your signature, I submitted the state's waiver request, as stipulated in law. To date, we have still not received approval, or any other communication, related to our request. Under the newly enacted provisions is a condition that the President must approve any such waiver request within 45 days.

This remains the single biggest issue preventing more homeowners from getting assistance through the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance program, and the people of Louisiana have been waiting far too long already. We have done everything we can to prepare the program for the guidance from your office and/or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), but without that guidance we cannot move forward with implementing the change that is required by the law.

We look forward to your approval of the waiver request, as well as whatever guidance is necessary, so we can begin to complete Louisiana's recovery programs from the floods of 2016. This action by your administration is critical to our recovery of our state and to over 6,000 Louisiana families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards  
Governor