

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 14, 2018

The Honorable Ben Carson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Carson,

In February, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, dating back to efforts since December, which included \$28 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) for communities recovering from two of the worst national disaster years on record. It has now been nearly **six months** since this aid package was signed into law, but the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has yet to publish a federal register notice to deploy what Congress intended as emergency aid. Once this is published, states will still be required to submit an action plan for the funds, which will be subject to approval.

Our communities continue to remain vulnerable to the summer hurricane season without being able to utilize funding for disaster mitigation. While we recognize and support efforts to ensure taxpayer accountability, other agencies who received emergency aid as part of the same supplemental appropriation have already allocated funds to actual projects.

On behalf of communities across the country which are seeking to rebuild, we cannot continue to wait expectantly for CDBG-DR funds. We urge your agency to act quickly to publish the requisite federal register notice so that critical mitigation projects may be constructed and completed. The longer we wait, the less likely it is for our communities to insulate themselves from future risk and to help provide security to constituents and recovery communities. We cannot continue to fund disasters after the fact, and urge HUD to ensure that these taxpayer dollars are able to support mitigation efforts before the next storm devastates our communities.

Sincerely,



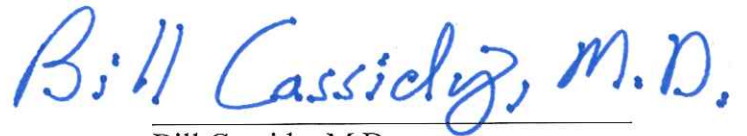
Garret Graves  
United States Congressman



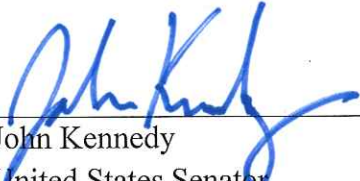
Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



John Kennedy  
United States Senator



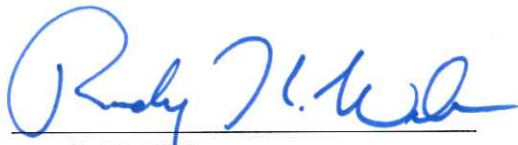
John Culberson  
United States Congressman



Michael T. McCaul  
United States Congressman



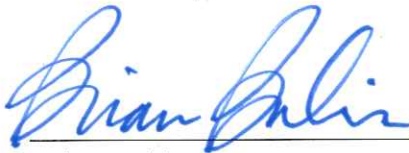
Cedric Richmond  
United States Congressman



Randy K. Weber  
United States Congressman



Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
United States Congressman




Brian Babin  
United States Congressman



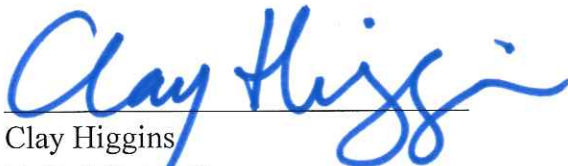
Carlos Curbelo  
United States Congressman



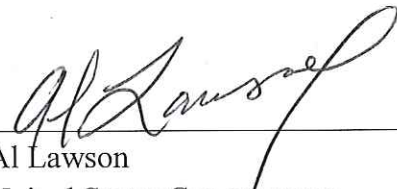
Stacey Plaskett  
United States Congresswoman



Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon  
United States Congresswoman



Clay Higgins  
United States Congressman



Al Lawson  
United States Congressman