

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

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Peter Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, SW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor,

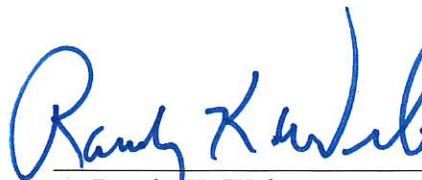
On February 14, 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied Texas' request for Public Assistance to be added to the current major disaster declaration approved by President Trump for Tropical Storm Imelda on October 4, 2019. We write to urge FEMA to swiftly approve the state's appeal of the denial.

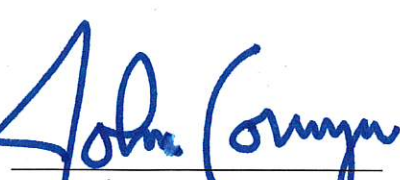
FEMA, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), and the affected local jurisdictions conducted joint preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) to determine the extent of infrastructure damage produced by the storm. Many communities throughout Texas incurred significant disaster response and recovery costs responding to the storm. FEMA certified these costs at approximately \$18 million, far short of the \$125 million in costs identified by local jurisdictions.


The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has issued over \$716.5 million for Imelda claims. Over \$68.5 million in FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) has been paid with over \$76.6 million in loans approved through the Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance program. With over \$860 million approved for individuals in Texas, the \$18 million in public infrastructure damages certified by FEMA is inordinately low. This is only 2.1 percent of the combined costs for NFIP, IA, and SBA. Proportionately for Hurricane Harvey, PA is estimated to be 35 percent of the combined NFIP, IA, and SBA costs. We understand FEMA claims much of the locally identified \$125 million in damages is negated through "obtain and maintain" requirements through NFIP. However, repeated requests for data to identify what public infrastructure is covered by NFIP's "obtain and maintain" requirements have gone unanswered. Meanwhile, the areas hard hit by Imelda, all declared in Hurricane Harvey as well, have been waiting five months for recovery assistance. We urge you to provide this data immediately.

Federal assistance is critically needed to help Texans repair public facilities and infrastructure damaged or destroyed by Imelda. We respectfully request your timely approval of the state's appeal. Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress

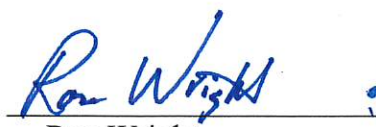
  
John Cornyn  
Senator

  
Ted Cruz  
Senator

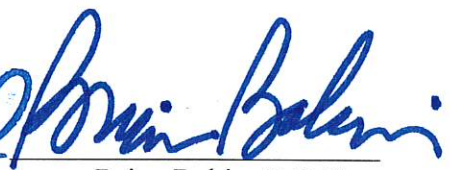
  
John Carter  
Member of Congress

  
Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress

  
Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

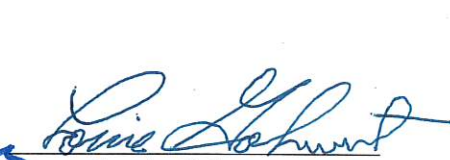
  
Ron Wright  
Member of Congress

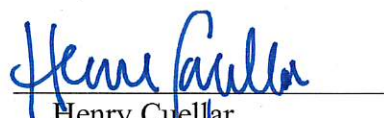
  
Michael McCaul  
Member of Congress


  
Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

  
Jodey Arrington  
Member of Congress


  
Kay Granger  
Member of Congress


  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

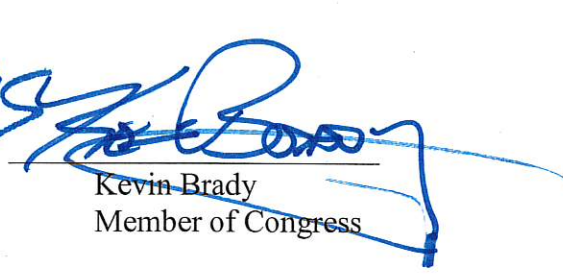
  
Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



  
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

  
Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress

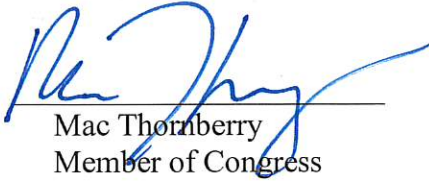


Will Hurd  
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

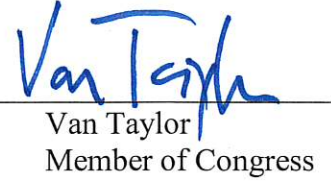
Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress



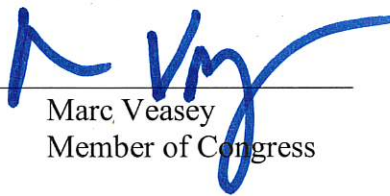
Sylvia Garcia  
Member of Congress



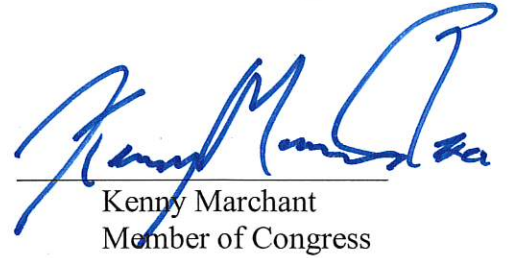
Van Taylor  
Member of Congress



K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



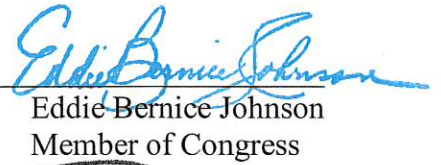
Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



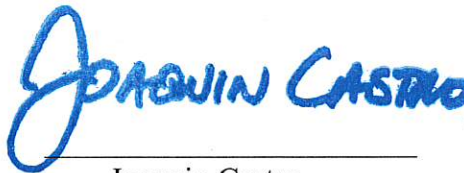
Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



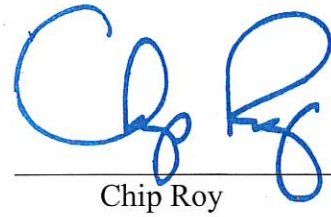
Al Green  
Member of Congress



Colin Allred  
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe  
Member of Congress



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress