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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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July 23, 2015

The Honorable Maria Contreras-Sweet  
Office of the Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, SW, Suite 7000  
Washington, DC 20416

Administrator Contreras-Sweet,

I write to you today regarding the historic flooding along the Red River in Louisiana that began on May 18, 2015. This flooding is causing significant damage to small businesses throughout the Red River region. In particular, the City of Shreveport in Caddo Parish and Bossier City in Bossier Parish were severely impacted by the flood. President Obama recognized the considerable damage to impacted communities and made a presidential disaster declaration to trigger vital federal assistance funds and resources for Louisiana.

On July 22, 2015, Governor Bobby Jindal officially requested that you implement a Small Business Administrative Declaration to provide assistance in the form of SBA Disaster Loans for the citizens and communities within Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, and Red River parishes. These six parishes were listed in the July 13, 2015 Stafford Act major disaster declaration that authorized Public Assistance to these parishes. As Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, I would like to express my support for the state's request and ask that you expedite the much-needed assistance to Louisiana.

The impact and damage from the Red River flood is widespread. As you know, a joint damage assessment was conducted on June 16, 2015 by the SBA and state officials. The assessment indicated at least 25 homes and/or businesses in Caddo parish suffered an uninsured loss of more than 40% with other parishes also reporting damage. Nearly 90,000 acres of crops and have been damaged with losses estimated at \$7 million. This flood also caused major disruptions to commerce and transportation. Preliminary Damage Assessment findings amount to a total of \$17,209,157.74.

I look forward to working with you in any way possible to help get the businesses and communities up and running after this disaster, and intently await your response.

Sincerely,



Chairman David Vitter

U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship