

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President,

Just over two years to the day of Hurricane Harvey, and southeast Texas is once again inundated by heavy rainfall and disastrous flooding. Local officials, first responders, and residents in certain areas are reporting that the impact of the storm – and expected damage – is even worse than Hurricane Harvey. In fact, we are seeing flooding in areas not previously impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Our first priority is to assure the safety and well-being of residents trapped or otherwise endangered by the rainfall and subsequent flooding. We would note that for most in harm's way, this is not an instance of local residents just not heeding the warning of local officials. Tropical Storm Imelda emerged from the Gulf of Mexico just off the Texas coast only a few days ago, leaving little to no time for evacuations or other preparations. Weather projections were also grossly understated. The amount of rainfall is stretching flood basins and dams past capacity, requiring surprise mandatory evacuations. Right now, Texans are literally stranded inside, or on rooftops of their homes or businesses, and they need our help.

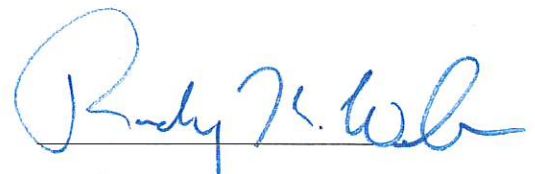
Once the storm passes, we must address the immediate health and safety needs of our citizens. It is clear that prompt, substantial state and federal resources will be needed to help our communities recover and rebuild. Given that we are still in recovery mode from Hurricane Harvey, it is likely that we will also need time extensions and waivers for a number of mitigation and recovery projects previously approved.

We thank Governor Abbott for his prompt declaration of a State of Disaster in the affected counties -- the first step toward delivering emergency resources and funding. We ask that you direct your Administration to deliver a Federal Disaster Declaration without delay once in receipt of such a request. Please know that the Congressional delegation of Texas and the people of our state stand ready to work together with you and your Administration to address the crisis at hand and the challenges in the months and years to come resulting from this terrible event.

Sincerely,



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
U.S. Representative (TX-36)



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
U.S. Representative (TX-14)