

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

September 3, 2012

HAND DELIVERED

President Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Thank you for your leadership throughout the preparation and response to Hurricane Isaac. Several federal agencies have been actively engaged in helping our parishes impacted by Isaac, but FEMA's response in particular illustrates the improvements we have made since Hurricane Katrina. Louisiana appreciates your visit today and your commitment to understanding the impact of Hurricane Isaac and how the federal government can help survivors.

There are a few things that merit your attention. First, I urge that you require FEMA to quickly complete its damage assessments. Communities that have been devastated by Hurricane Isaac floodwaters should receive the maximum assistance available under the law, including robust individual assistance, as quickly as possible to aid in a speedy recovery.

Secondly, as you are aware, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is routinely underfunded and today's challenges require a much more substantial investment. Currently, less than \$2 billion is budgeted for construction and there is a backlog of between \$40-\$60 billion in authorized projects. The region's Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System performed as intended, preventing a repeat of the 2005 devastation. Similar systems in other areas would have prevented comparable damage from Isaac, but there have been no upgrades due to insufficient funding. Comparable infrastructure challenges exist throughout the nation. I look forward to working with you and other likeminded members of Congress to move the Corps budget to a more responsible level.

Third, our effort to secure robust revenue sharing for coastal communities has been an ongoing fight for decades. Currently, onshore states receive 50 percent of revenues. Coastal states, particularly Louisiana, should receive a similar allotment so they can engage these funds in flood protection. We need your help and strong leadership to make this a reality.

Thank you for signing the RESTORE Act into law. It is a solid step forward to ensure that the Gulf Coast receives the resources necessary to secure our coastline and to support the important industries that depend on it. Again, your visit to Louisiana is appreciated, and I look forward to working in partnership with you to address these issues.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
U.S. Senator