

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2019

David A. Storms
Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Unit #45, Suite 2800
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Dear Mr. Storms,

As Members of Congress from the Houston area, we write regarding the Texas General Land Office (GLO) interpretation of 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2) waiver. We recently marked the second anniversary of Hurricane Harvey. Deploying the next series of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) funds effectively and efficiently is of the highest importance.

GLO recently requested a waiver in regard to 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2) with the understanding that footprint limitations and water source restrictions are unlikely to be affected by any nearby environmental conditions. The City of Houston also agreed with the GLO interpretation and sent their own letter in support.

It is important that an adequate radius requirement for environmental review be established for the deployment of these funds that does not slow or impede the urgently needed projects this money will go towards. The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently determined that analogous noise analysis requirements do not apply to disaster recovery projects. Similar clarity with regards to environmental radius requirements will expedite the process of restoring properties damaged during Hurricane Harvey and limit the potential for exposure to hazards.

We thank you for giving this matter your attention and request a timely response as the department moves forward working with GLO.

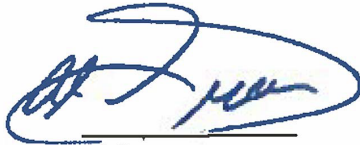
Sincerely,



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Sylvia Garcia
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul
Member of Congress