

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 4, 2019

Commissioner George P. Bush
The Texas General Land Office
1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701-1495

Commissioner Bush:

As representatives of the Houston and Gulf Coast region of Texas that have been devastated by recent natural disasters, we write to express our dissatisfaction with many Texans being denied assistance from the Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) and Homeowner Reimbursement Program (HRP) due to an outdated interpretation of duplication of benefits.

In October of 2018, President Trump signed P.L. 115-254 into law that changed the interpretation of how federal disaster benefits are calculated. Furthermore, on June 20, 2019, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released guidelines entitled "Updates to Duplication of Benefits Requirements Under the Stafford Act for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Grantees". Under these guidelines many Texans who received a loan from the Small Business Administration in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey should now be eligible to receive Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program funds.

It is our understanding that GLO now has to amend the Action Plan and submit it to HUD for approval. Please provide us with answers to the following questions:

1. How many Texans were denied assistance from HAP and HRP due to GLO's interpretation of duplication of benefits?
2. What is GLO's timeline to amend and submit the Action Plan to HUD?
3. What other challenges are you facing that make implementing this new guidance difficult?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your reply.

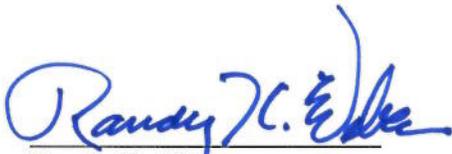
Very respectfully,



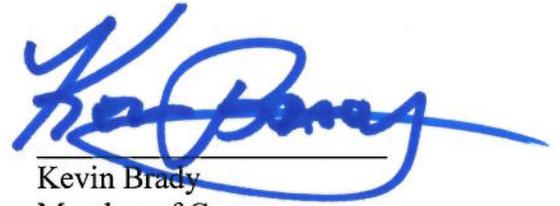
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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