

September 12, 2008

The Honorable R. David Paulison
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
United States Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20472

RE: Request for Waiver, Suspension or Modification of
FEMA Recovery Policy (Interim) 1002.1

Dear Administrator Paulison:

The purpose of this letter is to urge and request FEMA to waive, suspend or modify FEMA's Interim Recovery Policy #1002.1 as similarly requested by the Honorable Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr., Member of Congress, 6th District, Louisiana. A copy of his letter dated September 10, 2008 is attached for your convenience.

Over two-thirds of the state lost electrical power from Hurricane Gustav, the largest power outage in our state's history. Additionally, the Louisiana Public Service Commission has filed reports suggesting that certain designated areas will continue to be without power for an extended period of time. In response, Governor Jindal tasked me with putting into place a program to acquire nearly four hundred (400) generators to power essential service providers; including, pharmacies, service stations, and grocery stores. This program has helped our citizens to re-enter their communities and will ultimately lead to an accelerated recovery.

The above referenced FEMA policy limits the reimbursement of the rental or purchase of home based generators (5.5kw) to those instances where it is necessary to "power a medically-required appliance or piece of equipment." We believe the rationale behind this policy is to both provide comfort and to avoid the cost of sheltering affected residents that are dependent on this type of equipment. Congressman Cazayoux has informed us that FEMA would consider approval of his suggestion to modify this policy to allow all residents that have incurred a loss of electrical power for more than seven (7) days to lease or purchase a home based generator (5.5 kw). This will, much like our essential service providers initiative, accelerate the return of our residents. Therefore, we write to

endorse and support his request. Our ultimate recovery will be directly related to residents returning, which will result in businesses reopening, stabilizing the tax bases, volunteers quickly organizing to help neighbors, and a general rebounding of the economy.

Governor Jindal strongly believes in a public policy that encourages our federal partners to help us help ourselves. We are pleased that Congressman Cazayoux has expressed his support for this position.

Your urgent consideration is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Angelle
Secretary

Cc: The Honorable Governor Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana

The Honorable Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr.
Member of Congress

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress
Chairman, United States House of Representatives Committee on Homeland
Security

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress
Chairman, United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Emergency
Communication, Preparedness and Response