

BOBBY JINDAL
Governor



State of Louisiana
Office of the Governor

December 23, 2008

SENT VIA FAX #940-898-5325
AND BY U.S. MAIL

Honorable George W. Bush, President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Through:
William E. Peterson, Regional Director
FEMA Region VI
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

Reference: Appeal of Denial of Extension of 100% Federal Cost Share for FEMA DR-1792-LA (Hurricane Ike)

Dear Mr. President,

On October 23, 2008 we requested a fourteen day extension of the 100% federal cost share you had granted on October 8, 2008. In response, on November 24, 2008, R. David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, notified us that the extension was not warranted. Please accept this letter as an appeal of that decision and a further request that the State of Louisiana receive the same consideration granted to the State of Texas by extending the 100% cost share for an additional 100 days.

In August and September of this year, Louisiana marked the third anniversaries of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita - combined, the largest disaster in U.S. history. Currently, the recognized damage from those storms, as measured by the FEMA Public Assistance program, exceeds \$7.4 billion. The full economic damage to the State is in the tens of billions of dollars. In two week period between August and September of this year, the State was again hit, back-to-back, by two additional storms – Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Some of the affected areas of the State were still in the debris removal process from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita when Hurricanes Gustav and Ike hit the State. The State was fully impacted by Hurricane Gustav and all 64 Parishes have been declared eligible for assistance. It is estimated, again, only in terms of the Public Assistance

Honorable George W. Bush
December 23, 2008
Page 2

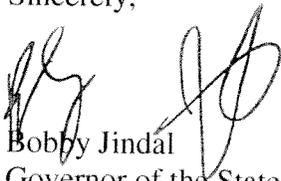
Program, that the damages incurred by the State from Hurricane Gustav will exceed \$1 billion. Hurricane Ike significantly impacted 27 Louisiana Parishes. These 27 Parishes have been severely impacted by all four storms and the full extent of the damage to those Parishes can only be realized in that context.

In the 27 Parishes for which a disaster declaration was granted for Hurricane Ike, it is estimated that the storm produced approximately 1 1/2 million cubic yards of debris. This immediately created an additional economic burden on the affected Parishes and further exacerbated the ongoing recovery process of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav. The level of damages is beyond the capacity of the State and the Parishes to address. As recognized in your October 8, 2008, declaration, the damages caused by the storm were of such "severity and magnitude that special conditions are warranted regarding the cost-sharing arrangement..." This declaration was made retroactive to the date of the original disaster declaration, some 27 days earlier. Parishes did not have the financial capability to begin debris removal activities immediately after the storm. The delay in starting debris activities caused by the lack of adequate funding precluded the Parishes from realizing the full benefit off the 100% cost share for the 44 day time period. In our October 23, 2008, letter, we requested consideration of the fact that the delay in notifying the State of the 100% cost share arrangement had an adverse affect on the Parishes' ability to take advantage of that benefit. We do not believe adequate consideration of the adverse effect of this delay was given in your previous determination that our request was not warranted.

Additionally, we are aware that Texas has been given an additional 100 day extension on the 100% cost share as it applies to Category A, Debris Removal activities. We believe that the Parishes affected by Hurricane Ike were damaged with such "severity and magnitude" that the granting of the 100% cost share is warranted.

It is imperative that the Parishes impacted by Ike be given the appropriate resources and opportunity to affect a rapid recovery. We request that you give the 100% federal cost share extension every appropriate consideration. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Bobby Jindal
Governor of the State of Louisiana