

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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September 6, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Wheeler,

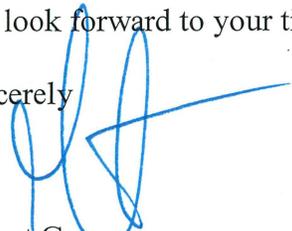
We would like to draw your attention to the catastrophic flooding that occurred in South Louisiana this August, impacting the entire Capital Region. More than 135,000 homes and businesses were flooded and in some communities over 90 percent of the homes were impacted. The enormity of what has been deemed a 1,000-year event and the largest natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy cannot be overstated. With the devastation of an entire region, we recognize the significant piece wireless and telecommunications connectivity play in recovery efforts and ongoing emergency communications.

In collaboration with other federal agency response, the Federal Communications Commission has a vital role to ensure that this community rebuilds, that individuals return home, and the community retains its economic vitality by maintaining access to communication. Efforts by the Louisiana Governor's Office and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to address the housing needs should be coupled with this agency to ensure adequate lines of communications are established to these temporary housing situations. The FCC has resources and tools available that can greatly aid in important, reliable connectivity for affected homes and communities recovering from the devastation. The FCC's capabilities will help ensure that first responders are able to receive and transmit emergency calls, that consumers can communicate with government and contractors as they rebuild their homes, and that businesses will be able to remain responsive to the fluctuating demands for specific recovery goods and services..

We cannot stress enough the importance of access to communication lines for this entire region during this incredibly challenging time and we look to your efforts in making this recovery as quick and effective as possible.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress