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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



October 6, 2008

Mr. Carlos Castillo
Assistant Administrator
FEMA Headquarters
500 C St. SW
Washington, DC 20472

Through:

William Peterson
Regional Director
FEMA Region VI
FRC 800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

James Stark
Federal Coordinating Officer
FEMA-1786-DR-LA
1250 Poydras St. Box 43
New Orleans, LA 70113

SUBJECT: Consolidation of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike

Dear Mr. Castillo:

On September 1, 2008, and September 12, 2008, respectively, the State of Louisiana was severely damaged by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Singularly, each was a major disaster; combined, these two storms amount to a catastrophic event for the state. As you are aware, at the time of these two hurricanes Louisiana was in the midst of recovery from two of the largest disasters in U.S. history – hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many communities throughout the state had not yet returned population and infrastructure to pre-Katrina and pre-Rita conditions.

Due to the devastating combination of all of these natural disasters, as well as their overlapping effects on a number of parishes, I am officially requesting that the emergency and major declarations for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike (FEMA EM-3289, DR-1786, EM-3295 and DR-1792) be combined into one disaster. Combining these disasters will empower the State to simultaneously handle multiple requests for assistance from communities affected by both disasters, without the burden of local and State officials demonstrating which disaster is responsible for incurred damage.

Additionally, a 'single disaster' approach significantly eliminates duplicated administrative efforts, both on a local and federal level. This, in turn, is a more efficient approach to recovery, as well as a more cost-effective use of taxpayer dollars.

I trust you will give this request every appropriate consideration, and your immediate attention is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Paul Rainwater
Governor's Authorized Representative