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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Received & Inspected
SEP 26 2016
FCC Mail Room

September 16, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

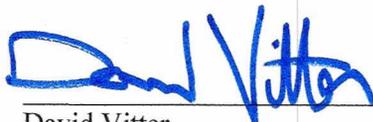
The record flooding in Louisiana has directly impacted more than 140,000 individuals, and an estimated 130,000 homes have been damaged. Early estimates also indicate that the flooding caused nearly \$9 billion in damages. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Louisiana are providing assistance to those displaced by this unprecedented flood in a number of different ways, including the Shelter at Home Program, manufactured housing units placed on homeowners' properties, and the Manufactured Unit Program (FEMA group sites) or Multi-Family Lease and Repair Program (MFLRP).

We ask that the FCC temporarily assist those families using the Shelter at Home or the Manufactured Housing Units programs. In 2005, the FCC approved funding to help connect victims with essential services in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and a similar approach could be quickly implemented to help families impacted by the most recent flooding disaster. The importance of communications services cannot be overstated for distressed families during the restoration process, and it would be prudent to provide temporarily assistance for the costs of those services for residents in the devastated areas. Those using FEMA group sites or MFLRP are also in need for temporary assistance, which could be provided with funding to support community Wi-Fi service at the housing sites.

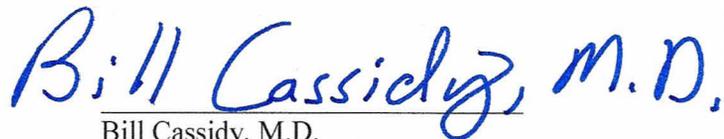
Potential assistance approved by the FCC should be limited and temporary and should target only individuals with legitimate needs and those deemed eligible for individual assistance by FEMA. Many of these families are in financial distress and face tremendous challenges as they rebuild or restore their homes, and the FCC could be an important part of the recovery process.

We urge the FCC to craft a solution that can sustain services for those most affected by this 1000-year flood event. The individual and families in the flooded areas have real and immediate needs, including staying connected with communications services. We look forward to working with the FCC to assist flood victims, and we eagerly await for your response.

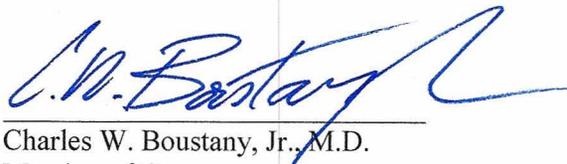
Sincerely,



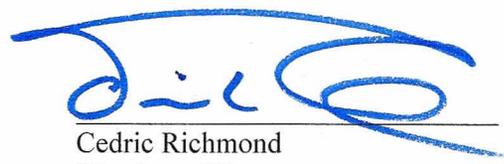
David Vitter
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel