

# Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Small Business

2501 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-6515

August 31, 2017

The Honorable Linda McMahon  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 3rd Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator McMahon:

Pursuant to its jurisdiction, the House Small Business Committee is monitoring the United States Small Business Administration's (SBA) response to Hurricane Harvey. The SBA's Disaster Loan Program is a critical component of the federal government's disaster response. Toward that end, the Committee recognizes your and your agency's early efforts to respond quickly to Hurricane Harvey and appreciates SBA's ongoing updates since it made landfall. The Committee is hopeful that SBA will be able to respond efficiently and effectively to the victims located in Texas and Louisiana.

As you are aware, the Committee reviewed SBA's Disaster Loan Program at its April 26, 2017 hearing. The program necessarily improved following Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy. In the wake of those disasters, the oversight community—including Congress, the Government Accountability Office, and the SBA Office of Inspector General—made several recommendations and took legislative action to help SBA improve its disaster loan program. SBA has largely implemented these recommendations and legislative provisions. At the hearing, however, the Committee emphasized that SBA must continue improving its loan process times while also guarding against fraud and abuse in the program. Although a difficult task, SBA reassured the Committee at the hearing it was capable and ready for that next big disaster.

As I emphasized in April's hearing, the Committee wants to help SBA to make sure it is prepared. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that SBA has the tools necessary to aid the Hurricane Harvey victims from homeowners to small business owners.

Sincerely,



Steve Chabot  
Chairman