

State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE
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September 28, 2021

Governor John Bel Edwards Post Office Box 94004 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards,

Hurricane Ida made landfall here in Louisiana on August 29th. It has now been over four weeks since that terrible date.

For one month, the people of our coastal Parishes have struggled to deal with the aftermath of this storm. While many charitable organizations, including faith-based organizations, have stepped up to provide temporary food and supplies, our government response has been lacking. One of the most important aspects of recovery is having adequate temporary housing to allow families to return and rebuild. However, this needed housing is missing.

My team and I have heard from many local leaders in the impacted region that they need thousands of housing units to provide for their citizens and aid in our coastal recovery. My staff has heard from these same local leaders that they have been told these housing units are still weeks from arrival.

As the leader of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, I urge you to make this an immediate priority. I understand any sensitivity you may feel in challenging a President of your own Party but I also urge you to put immediate pressure on the White House and FEMA to get temporary housing units into these impacted Parishes now, rather than weeks from now.

Often the news media quickly arrive, provide wall-to-wall coverage of a serious storm, and leave before seeing the real impacts. This can divert politician's attentions elsewhere. It is critical we force the White House and FEMA to focus on this true need now.

Absent FEMA, I urge you to take whatever steps are possible within GOHSEP to address this issue. My staff are prepared to assist wherever possible.

Together let's not lose sight of this urgent need or allow the White House or FEMA to simply look the other way.

Sincerely,

Jett Landry

Attorney General