



## NEWS RELEASE

---

*LOUISIANA STATE SENATE*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: 2.12.21**

**CONTACT: SENATOR CLOUD**

**PHONE: 337.461.2595**

**STATE SENATOR CLOUD URGES GOVERNOR TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM PRESIDENT BIDEN TO BETTER SUPPORT ALLEN PARISH'S HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS**

District 28 State Senator Heather Cloud (R-Turkey Creek), along with District 32 State Representative Dewith Carrier (R-Oakdale), is urging Governor John Bel Edwards to request assistance from President Biden to better assist Allen Parish's hurricane relief efforts. In October 2020, President Trump approved a 100% federal cost share extension for hurricane relief work for a 30-day time period to be set by the state government. Senator Cloud said that while the extension is greatly beneficial to most of the impacted area, it leaves Allen Parish at a loss.

Allen Parish was quick to respond to the damages left in the wake of Hurricanes Laura and Delta; so quick, that the majority of the work they completed falls outside of the time period selected for the extension. Because the majority of the work and cost thereof falls outside of the reimbursable timeline, the parish and its municipalities have been put under unnecessary financial strain.

Senator Cloud would like the governor to request President Biden's assistance in extending the 30-day period to 45 days and to allow each parish the flexibility of setting their own time period.

"You certainly proved your concern for the people of Allen Parish throughout the aftermath and recovery of both Hurricane Laura and Delta," writes Senator Cloud. "I ask that you once again stand in the gap for the people of Allen Parish as the reimbursable timeline selected is going to put the affected municipalities and Allen Parish itself in dire financial straits."

The 100 percent federal cost share currently covers debris removal (Class A) for the period of October 14 through November 12, 2020 and emergency protective measures (Class B) for the period of August 28 through September 26, 2020.

A copy of the letter to the governor is attached.

###

P.O. Box 269  
13988 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Turkey Creek, LA 70585  
(337) 461-2595  
(833) 924-1008  
[sen28@legis.la.gov](mailto:sen28@legis.la.gov)

**SENATE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**



**Heather Cloud  
State Senator ~ District 28**

COMMITTEES  
Finance, Vice Chairwoman  
Judiciary A  
Local and Municipal Affairs  
Select Committee on Women  
and Children

Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Honorable Governor John Bel Edwards  
PO Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards,

I write to humbly ask for your assistance as Western Louisiana continues to recover from the two hurricanes that wreaked havoc and devastation in 2020. As you are well aware, President Trump approved a 100% federal cost share extension for both Category A and Category B work at a 30-day period to be set by Louisiana State Government. While I am incredibly grateful for this extension, the period chosen is problematic for one of the parishes that I represent, Allen Parish. Following the storms, Allen Parish officials quickly and responsibly mobilized to remove dangerous debris off of roadways, drainage ditches and canals as they were assured FEMA reimbursements would apply. Unfortunately, the majority of the work and cost thereof falls outside of the time period selected leaving the municipalities and parish governments financially responsible for a large majority of the debris cleanup.

You certainly proved your concern for the people of Allen Parish throughout the aftermath and recovery of both Hurricane Laura and Delta. I ask that you once again stand in the gap for the people of Allen Parish as the reimbursable timeline selected is going to put the affected municipalities and Allen Parish itself in dire financial straits.

It is my understanding that initially the state requested FEMA to allow each parish to select their most beneficial 30-day period. Unfortunately, FEMA rejected the request because there is no previous precedent. However, the 2020 hurricane season was unprecedented.

Would you please consider making this request once more. *I respectfully ask that you request President Biden's assistance with two simple actions. First to extend the 30-day time period to 45 days, and secondly that each parish be granted the flexibility of setting their own time period for reimbursement at a 100% federal cost share.* Considering that the landfall of Hurricane Delta interrupted Hurricane Laura's recovery efforts, there has not been enough flexibility in the existing waiver to cover the needs of individual parishes. This would be a tremendous help for Allen Parish as they face a catastrophic financial collapse of their



**SENATE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**



**Heather Cloud  
State Senator ~ District 28**

P.O. Box 269  
13988 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Turkey Creek, LA 70585  
(337) 461-2595  
(833) 924-1008  
[sen28@legis.la.gov](mailto:sen28@legis.la.gov)

COMMITTEES  
Finance, Vice Chairwoman  
Judiciary A  
Local and Municipal Affairs  
Select Committee on Women  
and Children

governmental operations if adjustments are not made to the reimbursable time period. It is my belief that these revisions would greatly assist other parishes who have also been affected by the 2020 Hurricane Season as well.

Finally and thankfully, it is my understanding that you have the full Congressional Delegation's support in making this request. Your assistance in this matter is greatly needed and would be deeply appreciated by both me and our shared constituents of Senate District 28.

Kindest regards,

Heather Cloud

Senate District 28

DeWith Carrier

House District 32