

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1802**

February 04, 2009

The Honorable John Mica  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2167 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Mica:

I write seeking your assistance in hosting a face-to-face roundtable discussion between Members of Congress and senior representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). During this roundtable, I wish to discuss the inordinate delays of releasing funding for Public Assistance project worksheets and other projects, the causes of these delays, and the direct impact of these delays on the Louisiana's Second District's and the larger Gulf Coast's recovery.

The rebirth and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast, including within the Louisiana's Second District, which I represent, has been frustrated by FEMA's slow release of disaster assistance funds for critical infrastructure and other projects. In meeting after meeting, I have learned from constituents and others across Louisiana and the Gulf Coast that the backlog in releasing funds is harming the ability of Louisiana and her neighbors to redevelop. I have found out from Louisiana State representatives that, currently, there are nearly 4,000 projects representing over \$4 billion of obligated funds that have yet to be released and that some of these projects have been outstanding for more than three years.

The Honorable John Mica

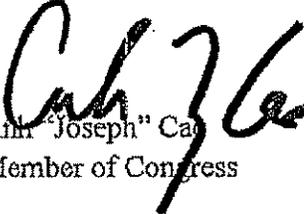
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For the millions of hard-working and determined people of Louisiana and neighboring states who are dedicated to the rebuilding and renewal after the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike, this is unacceptable. And, this is the message I was sent to Washington to carry to Administration officials. This meeting, to which I wish to invite our colleagues from the affected areas, is an important first step in ensuring the District and the Gulf Coast receive urgently needed redevelopment funds.

I look forward to working with you on these critical issues in the years to come, and I thank you for your attention and dedication to the rebuilding and Louisiana's Second Congressional District and the Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

  
Anh "Joseph" Cao  
Member of Congress