

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2404

March 30, 2020

Administrator Pete Gaynor  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
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Administrator Gaynor:

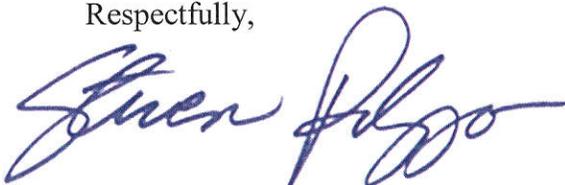
I very much appreciate your making yourself available during the members' telebrief to discuss FEMA's response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. As I mentioned on Friday's call, I have great concern that distributing resources to hard hit metropolitan areas without adequate consideration given to neighboring areas is inviting danger to our doorsteps and counterproductive to the Administration's efforts to slow the spread.

My district borders New Orleans, currently one of the most significantly affected areas in the country. I have great fear that because of the small geographic distance between the New Orleans metropolitan area and my congressional district, community spread is inevitable. I am also deeply concerned that resources are being allocated to communities throughout the state of Louisiana in preparation of surge capacity, despite many of those communities being further away from New Orleans than those in south Mississippi. While I know my state leaders continue taking significant steps to respond to the pandemic, the virus does not know where one state ends and the next one begins. As hospitals and treatment facilities around the nation prepare for and respond to this threat, it is important that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is strategically distributed, not based on state lines, but on geographic proximity.

Accordingly, I urge you to take immediate steps to prioritize the distribution of PPE to areas that are nearest to the geographic centers of the most significant outbreaks, and ensure South Mississippi receives desperately needed PPE.

Thank you for your time, attention and efforts to ensure that the needs of all Americans are being met at this time.

Respectfully,



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress

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