

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2016

Secretary Thomas E. Perez
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez,

We write to express our strong concern over the detrimental impact the Department of Labor's (DOL) executive, administrative, and professional employees overtime rule will have on Louisiana businesses deeply impacted by recent flooding. In light of the fast approaching December 1, 2016 date for implementation, we are respectfully requesting a one-year delay of the rule's requirements for Louisiana businesses still struggling to recover from flood damage.

As you may know, Louisiana has experienced multiple, historic flooding events throughout 2016. In fact, within the last few weeks alone, 22 parishes were designated for the Federal major disaster declaration, causing more than 137,000 Louisianans to register for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Governor expects that number to surpass 150,000 households within the next few weeks. The impact these flooding events have had on Louisiana and its residents has been substantial, and appropriately warrants flexibility in the implementation of the new regulations.

Louisiana's businesses are the backbone of our economy, which has been hit especially hard in 2016. During this last flooding episode, more than 6,000 businesses that have sustained water damage with estimates of more than \$2.2 billion in needed capital for completion of critical structural repairs, replacement of damaged equipment, and restoration of lost inventory. Additionally, an estimated 20% of Louisiana's businesses and 14% of the State's workforce were disrupted during the flooding. The wake of Louisiana's devastating floods will continue to negatively impact the State for many months to come.

We are deeply concerned that the Department's overtime rule will unnecessarily exacerbate the difficulty and expense of recovery efforts underway, while having a profoundly negative impact on small businesses, in particular.

As our state once again sets out to rebuild, Louisiana Strong, we respectfully ask that the Department delay implementation of the overtime rule for at least one year for employers in all parishes declared disaster areas as a result of the storm systems that have ravaged our State this year.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and respectfully request the favor of a response.

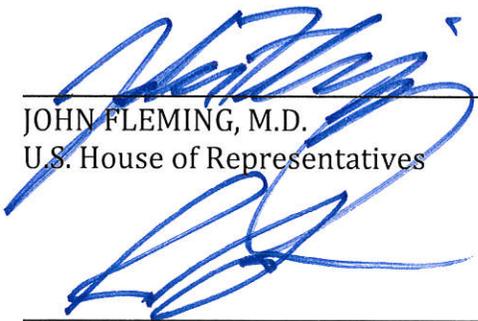
Sincerely,



DAVID VITTER
U.S. Senate



BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
U.S. Senate



JOHN FLEMING, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives



STEVE SCALISE
U.S. House of Representatives



RALPH ABRAHAM, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives