



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2010

The Honorable Karen G. Mills
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, Southwest
Suite 7900
Washington, D.C. 20416-0005

Dear Administrator Mills:

I am writing in strong support for California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's request that the Small Business Administration (SBA) declare Los Angeles County a federal disaster area and provide the appropriate resources to help homeowners rebuild from the devastating mudslide and debris damage caused by heavy rains, flash floods and storms. Having seen the aftermath of the storms and mudslides firsthand, I respectfully urge your expeditious approval of this request.

As you know, since January 17, Southern California has been hit by a series of storms bringing high winds, significant rains and heavy snowfall resulting in floods, mudslides and debris flows. The full impact of the storms continue to be felt by families residing in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, many of whom were forced to evacuate only to return to mud covered streets and homes damaged beyond repair. A survey conducted by the California Emergency Management Agency and the SBA determined that the amount of damage was sufficient to meet the threshold for a physical disaster declaration, allowing for disaster loans to be made available to those adversely affected by these storms and the subsequent mudslides.

The SBA's important role in the rebuilding process is essential in assisting these families and the impacted communities. I greatly appreciate your consideration of Governor Schwarzenegger's request for a disaster declaration in Los Angeles County and am committed to working with the SBA and all other federal agencies involved to mitigate the damage caused by these storms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Dreier".

David Dreier

DD:msh