



Rodney Alexander / Louisiana's 5th District
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

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Alexander: La. Delegation United in Mission to Help Farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, today released the following statement to ensure farmers in the 5th Congressional District and throughout the state that the Louisiana Congressional Delegation is committed to securing assistance for those who were affected by the hurricanes and will continue to work toward this goal along with state leaders.

Alexander said he is optimistic Gov. Jindal will be able to direct a portion of Louisiana's share of the \$6.5 billion in flexible Community Development Block Grants included in the Continuing Resolution (CR) Appropriations Package passed by the House of Representatives on Wednesday to farmers affected by the hurricanes.

Alexander, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, is also exploring options such as attaching funding for agriculture disaster recovery to the next supplemental appropriations bill, which will be debated at the start of the next Congress.

"I understand that our farmers in the 5th Congressional District and throughout the state need help now, but, unfortunately, Congress' process for allocating funding does not always operate on the level of urgency we require. With that said, I am doing all I can to ensure our farmers receive assistance as soon as possible," Alexander said.

"I am working closely with Sen. Landrieu, who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and we are committed to focusing Congress' attention on this crisis and reminding our colleagues of how invaluable Louisiana farmers are to the nation.

"This is one of the most drastic times Louisiana farmers have undergone in recent history, and I know the additional questions being raised over the future of our nation's economy greatly increase their concerns. All across the state,

farmers whose crops were destroyed by the storms are experiencing fear and uncertainty, and I wish to assure them that my colleagues and I in Congress are working together to find solutions to the many struggles they are facing.”

Since the hurricanes, Alexander said he and his staff have met with Gov. Jindal and Commissioner of Agriculture Mike Strain as well as regional USDA Farm Service Agency representatives and groups such as the National Cotton Council of America, the USA Rice Federation, and the American Sugarcane League to discuss the concerns of 5th District farmers.

“My staff and I have had the opportunity to speak regularly with many 5th District farmers and others in the agriculture industry, but I want those whom I have not spoken to directly to know that my Congressional colleagues and I understand what they are going through, and we will continue to do all we can to resolve this crisis.”

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