



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0523

August 5, 2019

Mr. Chris Pilkerton
Acting Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Mr. Pilkerton:

I write in strong support of the State of California and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) request that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) declare Kern County and San Bernardino County as disaster areas following the recent earthquakes in Ridgecrest, California.

On July 4th, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Ridgecrest, followed a day later by a 7.1 magnitude earthquake. Since then, there have been over 1,400 aftershocks, which remain ongoing. Residents and businesses in Ridgecrest experienced damage to their homes and places of work in the surrounding area. A disaster declaration by SBA would make this region eligible for Home and Personal Property Disaster Loans, Business Physical Disaster Loans, and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. These assistance programs would help ensure that the constituents I represent in Ridgecrest and eastern Kern County can recover so life can return to normal as quickly as possible.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that you expeditiously review and approve the State of California's request for a SBA disaster declaration for Kern County and San Bernardino County to allow homeowners and business owners adversely impacted by the July earthquakes access to critical assistance programs managed by the SBA. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

KEVIN McCARTHY
House Republican Leader