



LIVINGSTON PARISH  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**LIVINGSTON  
PARISH BUSINESS**

**Flood Recovery**

**D.C. FLY-IN**

**PRIORITIES**

**—2017—**

Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce  
*Louisiana STATE CHAMBER of the YEAR!*  
248 Veterans Blvd., Denham Springs, LA 70726  
(225) 665-8155 | [www.livingstonparishchamber.org](http://www.livingstonparishchamber.org)

# D.C. FLY-IN PRIORITIES

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## 2016 Flood - Statistics, Recovery Needed and the NFIP

In the August 2016 flood, an estimated 22,500 structures flooded, impacting nearly every Livingston Parish business and their employees through either property damages and / or revenue impact. The **entire commercial corridor** of Denham Springs businesses flooded causing a complete shut down of economic activity. Federal economic impact recovery funds are imperative to the stabilization of these areas and the ability of the area to sustain a viable tax base from these severely impacted businesses—thus schools, services, infrastructure and other critical services.

**Limited Recovery Funds for Business:** To date, the independent small business owner has felt abandoned and left to their own resources in the recovery process. The value they bring to recovery and future sustainability of the area impacted should not be overlooked. As they readily paid into those coffers, they have found there is limited assistance for them when they are facing severe challenges through no fault of their own. **40% of businesses impacted will use personal funds to rebuild.** Premiums for interruption of business were paid only to find they were excluded in the event of a flood.

Many businesses are trying to rebuild and reopen, only to find the delays in obtaining assistance --- thereby prolonging their time with no revenue being produced --- almost impossible to overcome. The loan and grant processes need to be streamlined to provide faster and less complicated means of obtaining assistance for impacted businesses.

**The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** reauthorization expires on September 30, 2017. While the financial stability of the program must be addressed and growth in the private flood insurance market encouraged, the program must be reauthorized to allow homeowners and businesses to purchase flood insurance at reasonable rates.

## Affordable Care Act (ACA) Costs to Small Business

Many small businesses have faced double digit increases in health insurance premiums under the ACA, even as insurers raise deductibles for employees. Due to the lack of insurance carriers participating, the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP), has not helped small businesses obtain better rates or more coverage choices. These issues must be addressed in any reform bill or replacement plan.

## Access and Attention to the Local Chamber Industry

These grassroots business organizations work directly with the needs of small business daily. Local chambers are associations and should be a valuable resource and an opportunity to offer feedback on business issues plus provide answers and solutions.

*Note: All local Chambers of Commerce are independently governed and managed by independent boards and professionals. Local chambers are not a chapter of national or state chambers; however, when warranted, the organizations can align for business advocacy.*

# Federal Delegation Committees

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## **U.S. Senator William “Bill” Cassidy**

Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Senate Joint Economic Committee  
Senate Committee on Health Education Labor & Pensions

## **U.S. Senator John Kennedy**

Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs  
Senate Committee on Budget  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship

## **U.S. Congressman Garret Graves**

### **6th Congressional District**

House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
Vice Chairman Water Resources & Environment  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Sub-committees Energy & Mineral Resources & Water Power & Oceans

## **U.S. Congressman Stephen “Steve” Scalise**

### **House Majority Whip**

### **1st Congressional District**

Energy & Commerce Committee  
Subcommittee on Communications & Technology

## **U.S. Congressman Ralph Abraham, M.D.**

### **5th Congressional District**

House Committee on Armed Services  
House Committee on Agriculture  
House Committee on Science, Space & Technology

## D.C. Fly-In Participants

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**Chad Bacas, P.E. MBA**  
**Chamber Chairman of the Board**  
*Denham Springs Operations Leader*  
Forte & Tablada, Inc.

**Brian Abels**  
**Chamber Governmental Affairs Chair**  
*Attorney/Partner*  
Boyer, Hebert, Abels, Angelle

**Regina Scott**  
**Chamber Governmental Affairs**  
*Assistant VP, Revenue Cycle Informatics*  
North Oaks Health System

**April Wehrs, IOM**  
**President / CEO**  
Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors : Louisiana Chambers Association