

## **Rouzer Is Out of Touch and Out of Step**

*Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 09.09.21*

Hitting New Orleans 16 years after Katrina, Hurricane Ida proved the value of Building Back Better. In 2005, the levees failed, [drowning 1,836 people and 80% of New Orleans](#). Then, the Army Corps of Engineers built a [\\$14.5 billion system of levees](#), a 130-mile ring to block storm surges up to 30 feet. Ida was one of the [strongest storms to hit New Orleans](#), but the system passed the acid test. [No levee failed](#) and [New Orleans suffered a single death](#).

Unfortunately, [Ida shattered](#) the outdated power grid, leaving more than 1 million homes and businesses, and all of New Orleans, without electricity. President Biden's Infrastructure Plans will do for the national electric grid what we did for New Orleans' levees. It will modernize and harden transmission lines against the worsening impact of climate change. The US is the wealthiest country in the world, but [ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in infrastructure quality](#). We can, and must, do better.

NC is the [third state most frequently hit by hurricanes](#). From 2010 to 2020, we suffered [42 extreme weather events, costing us some \\$50 billion in damages](#). [Matthew](#) killed 28 in 2016. [Florence](#) killed 43 in 2018. President Biden's plan will bring billions of dollars to rebuild NC's roads, bridges, electrical grid, and water systems and help make Brunswick County better able to withstand and recover from hurricanes to come.

If only we had a representative who wanted to help! Instead, [Dave Rouzer voted against the President's plans](#), and promised to "continue to fight" them. He's not just out of touch with NC's needs: he's out of step with NC's two Republican senators, who [both voted for Pres. Biden's \\$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Bill](#).

Out of touch and out of step will get a politician one thing, Mr. Rouzer: out of work.

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