

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) immediately send a supplemental appropriation request to Congress to support the communities we represent, which were devastated after Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Hurricane Helene made landfall on September 26, 2024, followed by Hurricane Milton on October 9, 2024. Both storms devastated our states, leaving hundreds dead and causing billions of dollars of damage. Across the Southeastern United States, Hurricane Helene is estimated to have caused \$250 billion in damages¹ and Hurricane Milton is expected to have caused \$50 billion in damages.² Tragically, approximately 261 people lost their lives as a result of both hurricanes.³

OMB plays an important role in consolidating the needs of various states and affected federal agencies in declared disaster zones. In past disasters, OMB worked quickly to assemble and transmit the administration's disaster supplemental request. In 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall on August 25 and OMB sent a supplemental request to Congress only one week later on September 1.⁴ Again in 2017, Hurricane Irma made landfall on September 6th and OMB sent a supplemental request to Congress less than a month later on October 4.⁵ Now, seven weeks have passed since the first of these hurricanes made landfall and OMB still has not transmitted a request to Congress.

We stand ready to work with you and our Congressional colleagues to pass significant disaster relief so that the road to long term recovery can begin. Our constituents do not have the luxury of waiting any longer. They need help now.

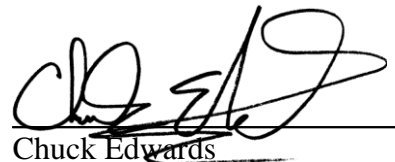
Sincerely,



Ted Budd
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Chuck Edwards
Member of Congress

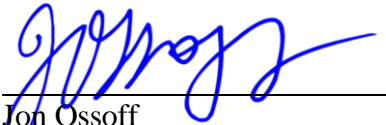
¹ Science Magazine. "Daunting Hurricane: Battered Researchers Assess Damage from Helene and Milton." *Science*, 2023, <https://www.science.org/content/article/daunting-hurricane-battered-researchers-assess-damage-helene-and-milton#%3A~%3Atext%3DBY%20some%20estimates%2C%20Hurricane%20Helene%2Ccaused%20an%20additional%20%2450%20billion>

² *Ibid*

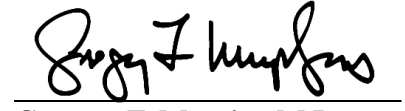
³ The Washington Post. "Hurricane Helene's Death Toll in North Carolina." *The Washington Post*, 2024, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/interactive/2024/hurricane-helene-death-toll-north-carolina/>.

⁴ Congressional Research Service. "The Impact of Natural Disasters on the U.S. Economy." *Congressional Research Service*, 2024, <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/R45084>.

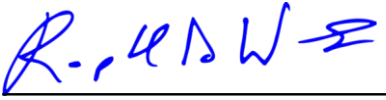
⁵ *ibid*




Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



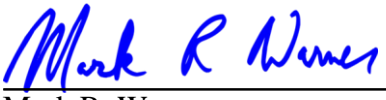
Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress




Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



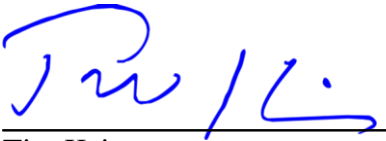
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



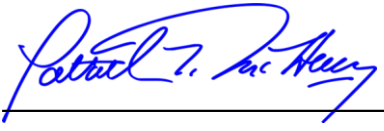
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator




Richard Hudson
Member of Congress




Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Patrick T. McHenry
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Cc: Shalanda Young, Director of the Office of Management and Budget