

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 15, 2018

Chairman Richard Shelby
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy:

We thank you for the immediate and necessary assistance you provided in response to our September 18, 2018 request for emergency funding for areas in North and South Carolina impacted by Hurricane Florence. Nearly two months have passed since Hurricane Florence, and with your support, Congress was able to provide a down payment of funding through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Fund as part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

Thanks to your assistance, state agencies across the Carolinas are already establishing plans to rebuild the hardest hit communities over the coming months and years. Since the passage of the FAA Reauthorization Act, our states are now realizing the full severity of damages from the brunt of this historic storm to our communities. A total of 51 counties have been declared disaster areas in North Carolina, including 34 for individual assistance, and in South Carolina 19 counties have been declared, including 8 for individual assistance. Many of the communities affected by Hurricane Florence were also impacted by other severe flooding events within the last three years, further complicating the recovery and rebuilding efforts. In total, our states suffered combined damage totaling over \$20 billion.

It will take years for many communities to recover, requiring the combined efforts of state and federal agencies. In the near future we will provide the Senate Appropriations Committee and relevant subcommittees with funding requests and programmatic changes needed to further recover efforts. We understand that the legislative calendar is limited as you undertake an effort to fully fund the government by early December. It is our hope and request that emergency appropriations for states effected by Hurricane Florence be included in the next appropriations bill the Senate considers.

We continue to work with our state partners and the Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Housing and Urban Affairs (HUD) to provide your Committee and the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) with the most up-to-date and exhaustive damage assessments possible. It is our belief the Federal Emergency Management Agency is nearing completion on damage assessments and home inspections; however, applications and payments for our constituents' eligible for assistance will continue for months. In an effort to receive the information you need to evaluate our forthcoming request, we would ask that you help us work with DHS, HUD, and OMB to expedite this process.

We are committed to providing the necessary resources to our states, and appreciate your support in our initial request. We thank you for your attention to the needs of our communities and we look forward to working with you to help our states recover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R Burr".

Richard Burr
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lindsey O. Graham".

Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thom Tillis".

Thom Tillis
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Scott".

Tim Scott
United States Senate