

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 26, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Democratic Leader Pelosi, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

We write in support of legislative action to address recent disasters befalling our nation. For instance, in October, Hurricane Michael came ashore as the third most intense Atlantic hurricane in recorded history, having hurricane force impacts in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia, and continuing on to have impacts in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland.

As you know, Hurricane Michael entered Georgia as a Category 3 Hurricane and was the first major hurricane to directly impact the state since the 1890s. Over the past month, Georgia has responded to and is now recovering from this devastating storm. We have identified agriculture and the impacted rural communities as critical areas in which the support of the federal government is essential to our recovery.

Hurricane Michael was a catastrophic blow to Georgia's number one industry – agriculture. According to the University of Georgia, losses exceed \$2.5 billion. This absolute devastation of Hurricane Michael which caused widespread damage across South and Middle Georgia is compounded by the fact that for the third straight year, Georgia farmers took a significant hit from a hurricane. Even worse, due to Hurricane Michael, Georgia's farmers went from having their best crop at harvest to no crop in a matter of hours. This storm hit farmers at their most vulnerable hour during harvest and it is critical that we assist these producers immediately to ensure there can be a crop in 2019. Impacts to Georgia's agricultural industry have national consequences. Enclosed is a brief by the University of Georgia outlining the impact on Georgia's agriculture from Hurricane Michael.

Federal assistance for these recent disasters is essential to help our nation recover. We urge Congress to work with the administration to ensure disaster relief resources are made available prior to December 7, 2018. Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you to secure these critical resources.

Sincerely,

Austin Scott

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Karen C. Handel

Karen Handel
Member of Congress

Doug Collins

Doug Collins
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk

Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress

David Scott

David Scott
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

A. Drew Ferguson, IV

A. Drew Ferguson, IV DMD
Member of Congress

John Lewis

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Jody Hice

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

Tom Graves

Tom Graves
Member of Congress