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United States Senate

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April 13, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write in support of Governor Roy Cooper's request for a major disaster declaration for the State of North Carolina, under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act, as a result of a severe weather event that impacted eighteen North Carolina counties from February 6, 2020, to February 7, 2020.

Preliminary records, outlined in Governor Cooper's request, indicate the severe weather event ending February 7, 2020, dumped an estimated five and a half inches of rain on parts of North Carolina in a twenty-four hour period. This severe weather event caused continuous flooding through February 19, 2020, causing mudslides, sinkholes, road washouts for major and minor highways, power outages for over 139,000 residents, and structure collapses. In addition to the substantial rainfall, North Carolina experienced four confirmed tornadoes with nearly twenty tornado watches or warnings issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for the state.

The preliminary damage assessments (PDA) for Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assistance statewide were conducted between Monday, March 2, 2020 and Monday, March 30, 2020 by state, local, and FEMA officials. The PDA found that the following eighteen North Carolina counties: Alexander, Ashe, Cherokee, Cleveland, Graham, Madison, Mitchell, Pender, Perquimans, Polk, Randolph, Rutherford, Stanly, Stokes, Swain, Wayne, Yadkin, and Yancey sustained a total of \$15,957,864.00 in damages, exceeding the capabilities of the State and local governments to effectively recover. As such, we respectfully request you approve this major disaster declaration request, consistent with the intended purposes of FEMA and the federal Stafford Act, to provide Public Assistance as soon as possible to assist these eighteen counties.

We would like to thank you for FEMA's efforts in recent years as our state continues to recover from several major hurricanes, and look forward to working collaboratively with your Administration, FEMA, state agencies, and county officials as we begin to rebuild from these most recent severe storms.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis
United States Senator

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