NEAL P. DUNN, MD
2ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
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May 24, 2024

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
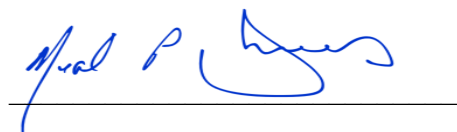Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write in support of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' request for a Major Disaster Declaration due to severe weather, including tornadoes, the state experienced during the period of May 10-14, 2024.

On May 10, 2024, tornadoes, estimated to be multiple EF-2 that touched down, as well as straight-line winds, left Floridians in ten counties with severe damage. Preliminary assessments indicate hundreds of homes are damaged or destroyed. Based on those assessments, Governor DeSantis has requested a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Florida, and specifically requested Public Assistance for Baker, Gadsden, Hamilton, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwanee, Taylor, and Wakulla counties along with Hazard Mitigation statewide. The Governor has also requested Individual Assistance for Leon County, which experienced 115 miles per hour winds, resulting in widespread damage. Leon County estimates 500 power poles to be broken, 91 damaged transformers, and one substation offline. Unfortunately, the state has confirmed two lives were lost as a result of the May 10, 2024, tornadoes.

 In light of the extraordinary scope of the destruction and the extent of outstanding clean-up and recovery efforts, federal assistance is needed to ensure Floridians fully recover. As such, I urge you to approve the State of Florida's request, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, which will provide the assistance necessary to ensure the safety of our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Neal P. Dunn, M.D
Member of Congress