

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2024

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

Dear Mr. President,

We write to request support of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' request for an expedited Major Disaster Declaration (DR), including Individual Assistance (IA) designation, and Categories A-G, including direct Federal assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) program for the State of Florida as a result of Hurricane Helene, that made landfall on September 26, 2024, and continuing. This designation will trigger the release of Federal funds essential to helping people and communities recover.

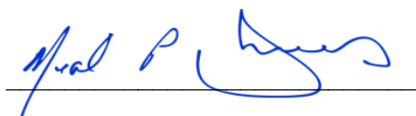
On September 23, 2024, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in 41 Florida counties. On September 24, 2024, he expanded this declaration to 61 counties. The Governor specifically requested debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct federal assistance under the Public Assistance program for Alachua, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Monroe, Okaloosa, Pasco, Pinellas, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington Counties (41). On September 24, 2024, Florida received a limited declaration, and two days later, on September 26, 2024, an amendment modified the declaration to include full Category B emergency protective measures for twenty-four of the counties.

We urge consideration of an expedited Major Disaster Declaration, to include applicable IA and PA (Categories A-G) for the requested counties, in line with the Governor's request to enable the state to respond to the catastrophic and historical impacts. Many of the counties impacted by the storm are currently recovering from Hurricane Debby which hit Florida just last month, the May 2024 tornadoes, and Hurricane Idalia from just a year ago. Federal resources will be necessary to augment the state funds available to respond to areas devastated by this storm.

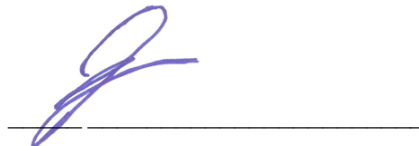
We respectfully ask, within all applicable rules and regulation, that you urgently review and respond to the State of Florida's request and issue the request. We also ask that you expedite any additional requests for assistance the state may subsequently submit to ensure the safety of our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



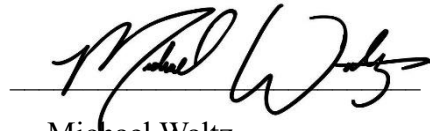
Neal P. Dunn, M.D
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
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Carlos Gimenez
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Byron Donalds
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Daniel Webster
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Cory Mills
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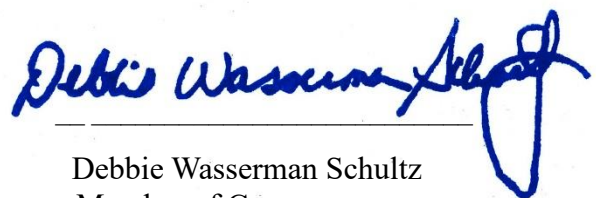
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
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Aaron Bean
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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