

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Joe Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 2050

Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' request for a Major Disaster Declaration due to the January 9, 2024 tornadoes in North Florida.

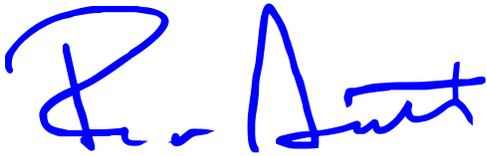
The catastrophic power of these tornadoes, as well as the storm's lightning, heavy rain and strong winds, have left tens of thousands without power and displaced individuals from their homes. Preliminary damage assessments indicate hundreds of homes are damaged or destroyed, many of which may be decades old and constructed before the implementation of modern building codes and mitigation measures. Based on those assessments, Governor DeSantis has requested a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Florida, and specifically requested Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for Bay, Jackson and Walton Counties, along with Hazard Mitigation statewide. 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 from the storms.

Ensuring the state has access to the federal resources it needs is imperative to protect Floridians, their property and their communities. As such, we urge you to approve the State of Florida's request for a Major Disaster Declaration and specific requests for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, which will provide the assistance necessary to ensure the safety of our state.

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Representative Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Representative Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Representative Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



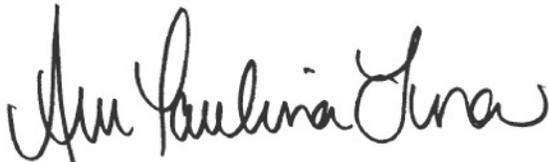
Representative Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Representative Bill Posey
Member of Congress



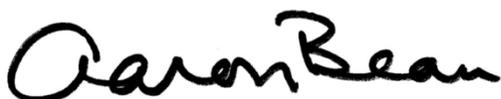
Representative Cory Mills
Member of Congress



Representative Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress



Representative Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Representative Aaron Bean
Member of Congress



Representative Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress

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Representative Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Representative Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Representative Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Representative Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Representative Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress