

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

September 28, 2024

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

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

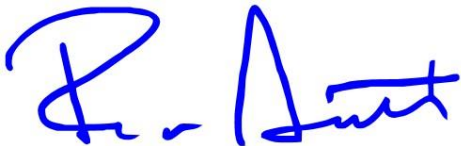
Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's request for a Major Disaster Declaration due to Hurricane Helene, which caused catastrophic damage to much of Florida's Gulf Coast as it made landfall along Florida's Big Bend coastline as a Category 4 hurricane on Thursday evening. Hurricane Helene's devastating wind speeds, extreme storm surge, and heavy rainfall severely impacted substantial portions of the state, with significant flooding, massive power outages, and widespread damage that will take a strong partnership to recover and rebuild.

Unfortunately, Helene's effects will continue to impact the state for some time, and the full extent of damage will not be known for several days as response and recovery efforts get underway. However, approving this declaration request will allow Floridians to be better prepared for the recovery phase. As such, we urge you to approve the State of Florida's request for a Major Disaster Declaration in its entirety.

Floridians are incredibly resilient, and with the cooperation from all levels of government, we will rebuild stronger than ever. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator