

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER  
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
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& CRITICAL MINERALS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
THE BUDGET

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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October 17, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Colleagues,

The recent hurricanes and tropical storms that have hit the Southeastern United States have been devastating to millions of families, businesses, and communities. The rain, wind, and flood damages from Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton have killed over 200 Americans, and caused hundreds of billions of dollars of damages, including to our critical infrastructure such as the electrical grid, major roadways, bridges, and more. Together, these storms have been the deadliest and most destructive storms to hit the mainland United States since Hurricane Katrina. It is imperative that Congress provide these communities with the resources necessary to recover.

While the Continuing Resolution signed into law until December 20th provided access to \$20.26 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund that should provide enough funding in the short-term, FEMA has already spent around \$11.5 billion for hurricane response and recovery efforts across Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, and more assistance will be needed moving forward. Further, other programs like the Small Business Administration's (SBA) disaster loan program have run out of funding from the high demand caused by these storms.

We appreciate congressional leadership's commitment to replenishing funds for these critical disaster relief programs, but the current pause on new SBA loan offers to those attempting to rebuild their businesses and homes is already delaying recovery efforts.

Considering the immediate and pressing need for assistance for millions of Americans, we ask that you call Congress back into session as soon as possible to replenish SBA's disaster loan program and ensure there is funding certainty for our other disaster programs, including FEMA.

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress