

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2024

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

Dear President Biden,

We write in support of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' request for an Expedited Major Disaster Declaration for the state of Florida as a result of Hurricane Milton, which made landfall near Siesta Key on October 9th as a powerful Category 3 hurricane.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Florida has experienced three hurricanes in as many months – two of which have been major hurricanes – causing significant damage across much of the state. In fact, Hurricane Milton made landfall on parts of Florida's coastline that had already suffered from unprecedented storm surge from Hurricane Helene and claimed the lives of 25 Floridians just two weeks ago. Furthermore, dozens of tornadoes were reported on the east and west coasts of the state from the outer bands of Hurricane Milton, destroying an estimated 150 homes and leading to numerous fatalities.

Given the severity of the storm, as evidenced by the at least 16 reported deaths and still untold damages wrought by Hurricane Milton on peoples' homes, businesses and livelihoods, we urge your immediate consideration of a Major Disaster Declaration, which would provide essential federal resources to help our state respond and recover to the catastrophic damages caused by this devastating storm. The full support of the federal government is critical in helping save lives and getting our communities and constituents back on their feet.

We thank you for your consideration of Governor DeSantis' request and look forward to your expeditious response to this critically important issue.

Sincerely,



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Aaron Bean
Member of Congress



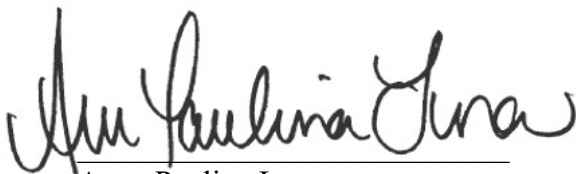
C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



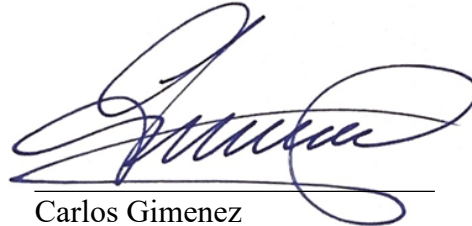
W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



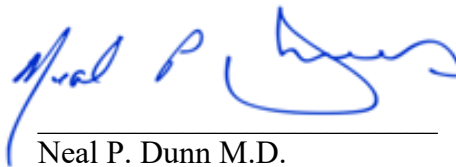
Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress



Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn M.D.
Member of Congress



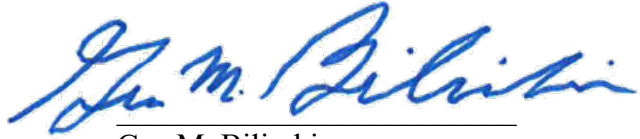
Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



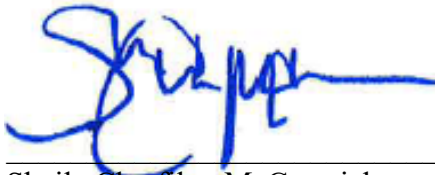
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



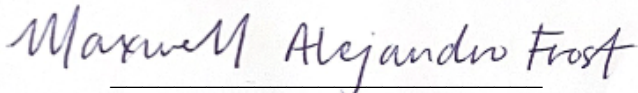
Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



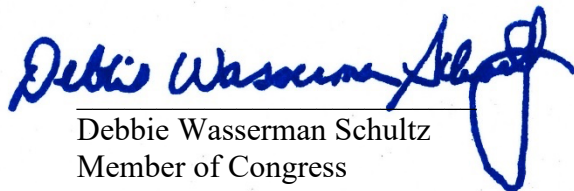
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



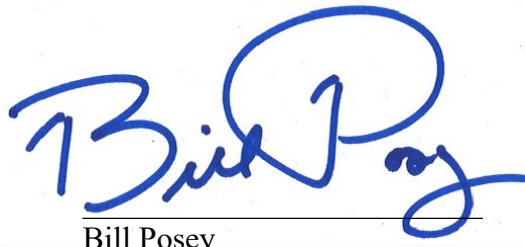
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

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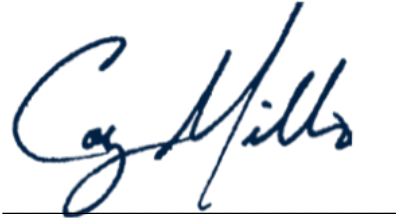
Mario Díaz-Balart
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bill Posey', written over a horizontal line.

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John H. Rutherford', written over a horizontal line.

John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Cory Mills', written over a horizontal line.

Cory Mills
Member of Congress