

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

October 1, 2024

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We write in support of the State of Florida's request for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to issue a Disaster Declaration for Florida's counties that were impacted by Hurricane Helene, and urge you to make assistance available immediately in the form of state block grants to expedite support for Florida's farmers and agricultural producers as they recover from the destructive impacts of the storm.

Florida's growers play a critical role in the American food economy. As one of the few states where major agricultural production can occur in the winter and spring months, Florida's farms provide fresh, domestically grown food to over 100 million Americans along the eastern seaboard when it's needed most. To support the growers and producers who were affected by Hurricane Helene, and to ensure that they can recover from losses and continue their important service of feeding America, the expeditious approval of a Disaster Declaration is necessary to have a successful winter and spring harvest season.

Your support for the State of Florida's request would make a difference for our growers and will assist in their recovery to ensure they can continue to contribute to our food security and national security.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



Mario Díaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



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



W. Greg Steube  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



John Rutherford  
Member of Congress

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
October 1, 2024  
Page Three

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cory Mills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C" and "M".

Cory Mills  
Member of Congress