

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2024

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

Dear Mr. President:

In the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, several of Florida's local governments are experiencing significant hardship as they seek to respond to the diverse needs of their constituents who are struggling to recover. Many of these local governments need FEMA to implement precedented emergency policy flexibilities to facilitate a seamless federal response.

After major Disasters, FEMA may waive program requirements with respect to prior approval for debris removal demolition and waste disposal. It is our understanding that FEMA has previously issued disaster specific guidance to inform local communities on how they can remain in compliance with regulations and remain eligible for reimbursement while fully utilizing the program waivers that have been implemented.

We acknowledge and appreciate FEMA's letter dated October 13, 2024, which provided necessary flexibility and waivers from needing to identify which specific damage was caused by Hurricane Helene and which was caused by Hurricane Milton. In light of that letter, we ask that you issue additional guidance for these hurricanes that will further help facilitate recovery efforts. This specifically includes:

1. Formalizing prior verbal confirmation with clear written guidance that FEMA will fully reimburse debris clean-up activities that took place between the two hurricanes in order to prevent loss of life and further destruction of property.
2. Granting additional flexibility with respect to Post-Milton debris clean-up that will enable expedited clean-up efforts.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. We look forward to working with you on behalf of Floridians.

Sincerely,



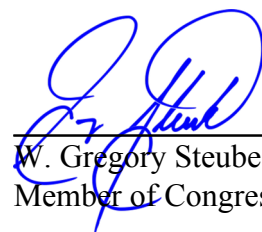
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator

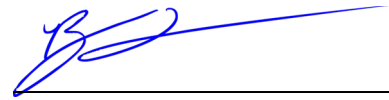


W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



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Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



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Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



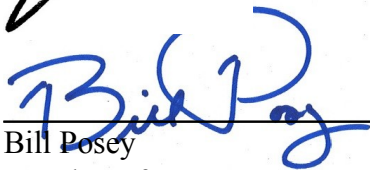
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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



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Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



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Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



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Aaron Bean  
Member of Congress



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Carlos A. Gimenez  
Member of Congress



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Laurel M. Lee  
Member of Congress