

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, on September 28, 2022, Major Hurricane Ian caused extensive damage through many parts of Florida. We thank you for approving a Major Disaster declaration pursuant to Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act¹ due to its impacts (DR-4673-FL). This action has provided much-needed federal assistance to the hardest hit homes and communities. As recovery continues, we respectfully write in support of Governor DeSantis' request for 100 percent cost share for Categories A and B until January 19, 2023, which will greatly help those communities hardest hit by this deadly storm.

More than two months since Ian made landfall, our communities are still reeling. Debris generated by the storm from wrecked houses and infrastructure is still piled high, stretched from southwest to northeast Florida. Hurricane Ian also caused the catastrophic failure of numerous bridges. The reality on the ground shows that our communities need more time. Lee County is estimated that debris removal could cost \$500 million – about half of the county's annual operating budget.

We firmly believe that the gravity and scope of this disaster, particularly the time required to remove debris, justifies 100 percent federal funding through January 19, 2023. To assist Florida's communities devastated by Hurricane Ian, we ask that you exercise your authority to approve this assistance.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

¹ 42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.

Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

Kat Cammack
Member of Congress

Neal Dunn
Member of Congress

John Rutherford
Member of Congress

Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Maria Salazar
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
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Vern Buchanan
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Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Greg Steube
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress