

October 15, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Jeffries, Chair Murray, Chair Cole, Vice Chair Collins and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of communities across the nation impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the undersigned organizations join Governors and US Senators from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia in advocating for a Disaster Supplemental. Moreover, we the undersigned, write to express our strong support for a Disaster Supplemental that is **inclusive of Tier-1 funding for Economic Development Administration (EDA) programs** alongside FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund, HUD's CDBG-Disaster Recovery Fund (CDBG-DR) and SBA programs to augment recovery and resiliency efforts in the Southeast region of the United States. Similarly, flexible funding in a disaster supplemental package that could be applied towards capacity building, infrastructure and long-term funding covering a broad base of community needs would be impactful. These storms have devastated critical infrastructure including water, sewer and electrical lines as well as housing, small businesses, livelihoods and entire communities. The rebuilding efforts will be vast and require a coordinated effort across Federal agencies to meet the needs of the region. Federal resources including funding for EDA on-the-ground responses would be a lifeline to members of our respective organizations.

We, the undersigned, welcome an opportunity to support your offices in determining funding levels for EDA programs in storm recovery efforts by sharing data and insights from our tens of thousands of members who are on the frontlines of rebuilding efforts.

Sincerely,

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)
Development Districts Association of Appalachia (DDAA)
National League of Cities (NLC)
State Economic Development Executives Network (SEDE)