

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

September 21, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Regional Administrator Gracia B. Szczech
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for your visit to North Carolina this week to witness firsthand the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence. North Carolinians are a resilient people, but the recovery from this storm will take years and will require continued assistance from our federal partners as we rebuild our state following two major hurricanes in the same area of our state in two years.

I am asking you to exercise your authority pursuant to 44 C.F.R. § 206.47(d) to grant the State of North Carolina requests for adjustment to the cost-share for the major disaster declaration granted in FEMA-4393-DR. I specifically request that the cost-share be 100% federal funding for the emergency work under section 403 and for debris removal under section 407, including direct Federal assistance, for a limited period in the initial days of the disaster irrespective of the per capita impact.

The State of North Carolina was catastrophically impacted by Hurricane Florence which brought extreme rainfall, devastating storm surge, damaging winds, several tornadoes and mountain landslides between September 13th and September 17th, 2018. The storm brought widespread rainfall amounts of 20-30", with some areas seeing greater than 35", which led to extensive flash flooding and record-breaking river flooding. River flooding across eastern North Carolina will continue for several weeks. Wind gusts as high as 105 mph and a storm surge in excess of 10' also brought severe impacts.

Eighty-nine of North Carolina's 100 counties declared states of emergency. More than 15,000 people sought refuge in state and county operated shelters at the

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height of the storm. As of Sept. 20, thirty-one storm related deaths have been confirmed by the state medical examiner's office. More than 800,000 homes and businesses were without power at the storm's worst. Rescue crews used aircraft, boats and trucks to rescue and evacuate more than 4,781 people and 1,034 animals from harm's way and this is ongoing. Local governments ordered mandatory evacuations that affected more than 575,000 people and voluntary evacuations for 268,000 residents. Hurricane Florence has caused massive flooding that has resulted in major damage to our critical infrastructure and closed Interstates 40 and 95 and major primary roads to eastern and southeastern North Carolina. Our farms in eastern North Carolina have been devastated, which impacts 85% of all the farm receipts for North Carolina. Sixty-eight percent of these are swine, egg and poultry farms.

During the last twelve months, North Carolina received a Robert T. Stafford Act Major Disaster Declaration (DR-4364) for a tornado and severe storms in Guilford and Rockingham counties. I have also requested a major disaster declaration for thirteen counties on July 30, 2018, and I am awaiting the results of the request. When considering this request, it is clear that the State of North Carolina will have significant cost-share obligations to the Federal government and granting this request will allow our state to recover fully from all the recent natural disasters that have affected our State.

The State of North Carolina is looking forward to a favorable response as it works to quickly and effectively to recover from this devastating event.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this request.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Cooper