

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

May 10, 2017

The Hon. Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States

The Hon. Ben Carson  
Secretary, US Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Hon. Mitchell McConnell  
Majority Leader, US Senate

The Hon. Paul Ryan  
Speaker, US House of Representatives

Mr. President, Secretary Carson, Congressional Leaders:

I write to express shock and disappointment in the lack of federal funding for Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts in North Carolina, and to encourage you to prioritize North Carolina's urgent request for help.

More than six months ago the storm devastated homes, businesses and entire towns here with torrential rains, causing 1000-year flooding and washing away communities in the central and eastern regions of our state.

North Carolina is steadily recovering, but too many people still can't go back to their homes or return to offices, schools, farms or places of worship due to water damage, debris, mildew and road closures. More than 82,000 households have registered with FEMA for help. Families displaced by the storm remain in hotels, due in part to a lack of rental and low-income housing.

Working closely with Sen. Thom Tillis, Rep. David Price, Rep. David Rouzer and the North Carolina Congressional delegation, along with state disaster recovery experts, we submitted a request to Congress for a conservative \$929,403,389 in federal funding as part of the most recent Continuing Resolution process.

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The bulk of the request was CDBG-DR funding for housing, public buildings and other infrastructure - our state's most critical and immediate needs. But the result, just \$6.1 million in disaster relief funding for North Carolina, was shockingly less than the need.

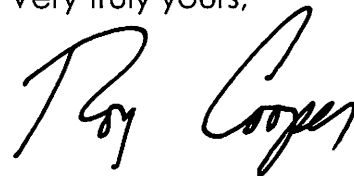
When a disaster hits our nation, Congress has in the past heeded the call from elected representatives in the affected regions. I ask that you and the leadership of the US House and US Senate prioritize the economic and humanitarian needs of North Carolina as you prepare your budget recommendations for Congress. I also invite you to visit North Carolina and see the devastating impacts of this disaster first hand. Our citizens and communities are struggling, and will only be able to make a full recovery with the aid of much needed federal assistance.

As we look ahead to the 2018 budget cycle and the prospect of drastic reductions in domestic spending, the need in North Carolina is still very real. Many affected North Carolinians feel that they have been forgotten, and though the flood waters may have receded, I refuse to let their needs go unmet. Whether through an immediate supplemental spending bill or through the 2018 appropriations process, the federal government must rise to the occasion to support this recovery.

Disasters affect every state, and North Carolinians have given their own money to help neighbors and those in other states in times of crisis. Help us rebuild our vibrant state economy and healthy population as we contribute to our nation's strength.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Cooper

CC: North Carolina Congressional Delegation

**Summary: North Carolina's federal unmet needs request:**

**Housing Repairs** – \$166.6 million to help homeowners with repairs, \$63.7 million to repair rental housing, and \$15.2 million to repair public housing.

**Housing Elevation** – \$434 million for buyout, elevation and reconstruction of 3,962 properties that flooded during Matthew and are at risk for future flooding.

**Agriculture** – \$92.6 million to cover losses for farmers not covered by the USDA such as livestock, farm equipment, and feed.

**Public Facilities** – \$43 million to repair public facilities and retrofit infrastructure like storm drains and sewer lines to prevent future damage.

**Small Businesses** – \$39 million to help 691 small businesses.

**Health** – \$37 million, to support health and mental health services for storm survivors and to help with repairs to health care facilities, child care centers, and social services agencies.