



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

April 19, 2019

Kem R. Fleming, Director  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
Office of Disaster Assistance  
Field Operations Center East  
101 Marietta Street NW, Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30303-2725

Dear Mr. Fleming:

Under provisions of 13 C.F.R. § 123.3, I respectfully request that the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) implement an administrative declaration to provide assistance in the form of SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans for the City of Durham, North Carolina, following the April 10, 2019, gas leak that lead to a deadly explosion in the downtown area.

This explosion in the City of Durham located in Durham County, North Carolina consumed an entire city block causing heavy damage to nine businesses, destroying four businesses and impacting the operations of surrounding businesses. At least five businesses in the area have been impacted by this event.

A survey of these affected businesses was conducted to determine the economic impact of their losses, with a cumulative gross economic loss of 40% or more for the disaster period as compared to the same period in the preceding year. Based upon these surveys, I certify that at least five small businesses in the disaster area have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the disaster and are in need of financial assistance not otherwise available on reasonable terms.

If you need additional information, please contact Joe Stanton, Assistant Director of NC Emergency Management at 919-218-6325 or email at [joe.stanton@ncdps.gov](mailto:joe.stanton@ncdps.gov).

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper