



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

May 23, 2024

Mr. Kem Fleming, Director
United States Small Business Administration
Office of Disaster Assistance
Field Operations Center – East
101 Marietta Street Northwest, Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2725

Re: Gaston County Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration Request

Dear Director Fleming:

On behalf of the residents of Gaston County and the surrounding area, I am requesting a Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster declaration due to the damages and destruction related to the May 8, 2024, severe weather event caused by two (2) EF-1 tornadoes. The severe weather inflicted major damage to Gaston County and the surrounding area resulting in one death and destruction to homes and businesses.

The joint local, state, and federal preliminary damage survey conducted on May 21 and 22, 2024, incorporated both state damage estimates and photographic documentation of damage.

The preliminary survey showed that 36 buildings were damaged because of the severe weather, including 26 homes and 10 businesses. Gaston County and the surrounding area potentially sustained enough damage to exceed the established SBA criteria of at least 25 homes and/or businesses with 40 percent uninsured loss.

Under the provisions of the SBA disaster loan program found in 13 C.F.R. Part 123, I am requesting SBA make a disaster declaration for Gaston County as well as the contiguous counties. This disaster declaration will provide needed support to individual North Carolinians and business owners affected by this event. North Carolina will not pursue an Individual Assistance Major Disaster declaration with FEMA.

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Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If additional information is required to assist you in your determination, please contact Mr. Joe Stanton, Assistant Director for Recovery with the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management at (919) 218-6325.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roy" and the last name "Cooper" clearly distinguishable.

Roy Cooper

RAC/swh

Attachment: SBA Preliminary Damage Assessment Summary