

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 8, 2018

The Honorable Brock Long  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Long,

We write in support of Governor Roy Cooper's request that the President declare a major disaster for the State of North Carolina, under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act, as a result of the impacts from a sustained rain and flooding event that occurred in western North Carolina from May 15, 2018, to May 31, 2018. We respectfully request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) consider the totality and cumulative effects of both meteorological events in its damage assessment.

The initial rain event, beginning on May 15, caused flash flooding and damage across several counties in western North Carolina through May 20. The still saturated region was further inundated with moisture from Subtropical Storm Alberto, from May 24 to May 31, causing severe damages and the loss of five lives. Local governments and residents of the affected area are concerned that the severe damage they faced in May could be viewed as two separate incidents, one on May 15 and a second beginning on May 24. Failing to recognize that the damage from this severe weather in May was due to the accumulation of substantial and prolonged rainfall could preclude eligibility for, and access to, crucial federal assistance.

Although two meteorological events contributed to the damages, it is important to recognize that western North Carolina would not have experienced the destruction caused by Subtropical Storm Alberto without the land saturation from the initial rain and the continued extreme weather. We ask that FEMA take the entirety of the severe weather of May into consideration when making its incident period determination with regards to Governor Cooper's request and that every effort is made to ensure our constituents receive the appropriate federal recovery assistance they need.

We thank you for FEMA's efforts in recent months as our state continues to recover from the tornado damage in Guilford and Rockingham counties, and we look forward to working collaboratively with FEMA, state agencies, and county officials as we begin to rebuild from this most recent storm.

Sincerely,



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Richard Burr  
United States Senator



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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator