

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 28, 2021

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

Dear Administrator Criswell,

We write in support of Governor Roy Cooper's request for a Major Disaster Declaration under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act for the impacts of the remnants of Tropical Storm Fred occurring in western North Carolina from August 17-18, 2021. We fully support the Governor's request for Public Assistance (PA) for Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, Transylvania, Yancey, and Watauga Counties, Individual Assistance (IA) for Buncombe, Haywood and Transylvania counties, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program access statewide.

Heavy rains began impacting southwestern North Carolina on August 15, 2021 and over a 24-hour period some areas of western North Carolina experienced 15+ inches, causing local rivers, particularly the East Fork Pigeon River, to crest above historic records. Numerous roads and bridges were destroyed, hundreds of homes were damaged, and most tragically, five individuals were lost as a result of the storm's impact. Damage throughout North Carolina's western counties is pronounced and still being fully determined, but the effects for many of our constituents will be significant and require the assistance of the federal government.

We thank you for FEMA's efforts in recent months as our state continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic 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,



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator