

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

We write to request a clean supplemental appropriations bill to replenish the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), and to help individuals, businesses, and agricultural producers recover from recent natural disasters throughout the United States, including Hurricane Idalia.

Hurricane Idalia made landfall on the Big Bend of Florida as a Category 3 Major Hurricane on August 30th, 2023. The storm impacted areas throughout Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, with record storm surges, wind damage, and heavy rain. Since 1980, tropical cyclones have averaged \$22.8 billion in damages.¹ While official estimates are not yet available, AccuWeather estimates that Hurricane Idalia caused \$18 to \$20 billion total damage and economic loss.²

FEMA expects the Disaster Relief Fund to be exhausted soon, causing the agency to prioritize existing funding in the interim for response efforts. However, FEMA's current resources will not be sufficient for recovery efforts related to Hurricane Idalia, the Hawaii Wildfires, and other natural disasters in 2023. In addition to replenishing the Disaster Relief Fund, funding is needed to assist agricultural producers in recovering from these natural disasters.

Disaster relief must be considered separately from other supplemental funding requests, including funding for Ukraine, to promptly deliver the necessary resources for affected individuals and communities. Unlike other supplemental disaster requests from the Administration, disaster relief

¹ <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/dyk/billions-calculations>

² <https://www.accuweather.com/en/hurricane/hurricane-idalia-turns-deadly-wreaks-havoc-from-florida-to-the-carolinas/1575534>

is urgent. Disaster relief funding should not be delayed due to being coupled extraneous matters that require separate debate and consideration.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress



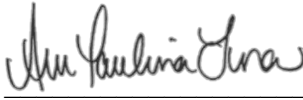
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



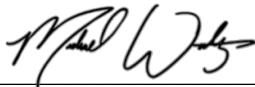
Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



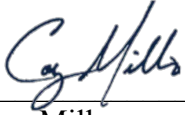
Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Mike Waltz
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Cory Mills
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Maria Salazar
Member of Congress



Aaron Bean
Member of Congress