

United States Congress

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2015

The Honorable W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate,

As members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation, we support Governor Pat McCrory's request for a Public Assistance disaster declaration in the amount of \$31.7 million for Brunswick, Carteret, Dare, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, and Pender Counties as well as statewide Hazard Mitigation as a result of the severe storms and flooding that occurred during the period of September 25, 2015 through October 5, 2015. We urge you to approve this request to help the state and the affected counties recover as soon as possible.

From October 14 through October 22, 2015, FEMA, together with state and local representatives conducted a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) and determined that eight North Carolina counties exceeded the \$3.57 per capita threshold of eligibility for FEMA's Public Assistance program. For each category of damage, insurance coverage was considered and estimates were reduced accordingly, such that the PDA estimates only include uninsured losses. Over 85 percent of the total damages are to North Carolina's coastal county beaches, which are eligible for aid under FEMA's Disaster Assistance Fact Sheet DAP9580.8 "Eligible Sand Replacement on Public Beaches" dated 10/01/2009, 44 CFR §206.225, 44 CFR §206.226 and 44 CFR §206.226(j)(2).

The storms deteriorated beaches, dunes, berms, and other critical infrastructure that federal, state and local governments have spent millions on to protect over 300 miles of our coast and coastal communities from severe weather events. These structures must be quickly repaired to ensure that future storms do not bring further devastating structural and natural resources damage to our coastal areas and communities. Additionally, damage to North Carolina's coastline greatly impacts the entire region's economy. As you know, tourism is the primary economic driver for these predominantly rural counties. In 2014, tourism in Brunswick and Carteret Counties alone generated more than \$496 million and \$324 million, respectively, and accounted for more than 8,000 jobs directly related to travel and tourism. Much of that economic activity is directly dependent on the condition of N.C.'s beaches.

A disaster declaration for Public Assistance will enable the swift repair of damaged beaches and coastal infrastructure and safeguard the continued economic vitality of these rural communities. We respectfully request that you make the necessary declaration to enable North Carolina's coastal

infrastructure and economy to quickly recover from this disaster, consistent with the intended purposes of FEMA's disaster assistance program.

Sincerely,



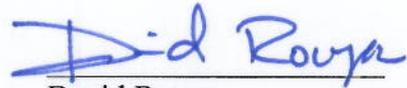
Richard Burr
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress