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EDUCATION AND THE  
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October 17, 2016

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to urge you to immediately expand disaster declaration DR4284 to additional Georgia counties and to include Individual Assistance declarations for those counties hit hardest by Hurricane Matthew.

Hurricane Matthew brought devastating destruction and hurricane conditions not seen in Georgia for decades. Storm surge of up to 8 feet, winds exceeding 90 miles an hour, and over 17 inches of rain occurred over portions of the state, and 4 Georgians lost their lives. While the full impact of the storm has not been fully realized, additional federal assistance is urgently needed to ensure public safety and continued recovery.

Having personally visited much of the affected area, I can attest that this storm brought significant damage warranting additional federal assistance far beyond the six counties currently included. While joint Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency teams are working diligently to conduct assessments, it has been 10 days since the storm hit and these communities simply cannot afford to wait any longer. Damage from Hurricane Matthew was not limited by county lines and the current six county designation is woefully inadequate. I urge your Administration to expand Public Assistance to all of the 30 counties contained in Governor Nathan Deal's state of emergency declaration.

In addition, families and businesses in those counties hit hardest by this storm continue to wait for Individual Assistance declaration. Beyond denying these families much-needed assistance programs in their time of need, the delay is preventing businesses and individuals from receiving tax relief and deadline extensions from the Internal Revenue Service. Such uncertainty impedes the ability of my constituents to recover from this devastating storm. I urge you to expand Individual Assistance to affected Georgia counties.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your Administration's ongoing efforts to mitigate and respond to the impact of Hurricane Matthew.

Sincerely,



Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter  
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary Jeh Johnson  
Administrator Craig Fugate