

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2025

The Honorable Jon Ossoff
United States Senate
455 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raphael Warnock
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Ossoff and Senator Warnock,

We write today to inform you that your support of the Schumer Shutdown is delaying \$531,000,000 in economic assistance for Georgia's farmers and foresters, along with numerous other essential resources. Our farmers and foresters are still recovering from Hurricane Helene, and it is past time we ensure this much-needed funding is available as soon as possible.

Georgia's farmers and foresters have endured severe hardships and suffered significant economic losses throughout 2024. Under President Trump's and Secretary Rollins' leadership, the State of Georgia is set to receive \$531,000,000 in federal funding to provide relief to impacted farmers and producers through Georgia's Hurricane Helene Block Grant Program. This funding is essential to support hardworking Georgians as they recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, one of the most destructive storms in our state's history, which caused at least \$5.5 billion in agricultural and timber damage. However, the \$531,000,000 is unavailable because of your vote to shut down the government. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has stated that the implementation and payment processing of the remaining Supplemental Disaster Assistance programs authorized in the American Relief Act have halted during the lapse in funding. Put simply, your vote to shut down the government puts Georgia's farmers and foresters last.

As a result of your continued effort to shut down the government, hardworking Georgian farmers and foresters are experiencing real and immediate consequences. From disrupting much-needed economic and disaster relief payments to hindering state block grant negotiations, the shutdown is inflicting severe consequences on Georgian farmers and producers. Additionally, the Farm Service Agency has paused new farm and commodity loans, cutting off a critical lifeline for family farms at a crucial point in the harvest season. If the shutdown continues, states—including Georgia—may also run out of funds needed to conduct meat and poultry inspections under cooperative agreements with the agency, potentially disrupting food safety oversight and processing operations.

It is time to stop punishing Georgia's farmers and foresters to score political wins. Our job is to support all Georgians in every way possible. Passing a clean continuing resolution is the obvious answer to ensure this long-awaited block grant is delivered to our farmers. A clean continuing resolution will also ensure that critical resources are available to Georgian farmers and foresters who need disaster assistance, loan assistance, and much more while we continue to work towards funding the government through regular order. Again, this hardship for Georgian families cannot drag on any longer. We implore you to do the right thing and reopen the government.

Sincerely,

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Andrew S. Clyde

Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress