

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to expedite consideration of Governor Deal's request for an emergency declaration for the State of Georgia. Specifically, Governor Deal requested debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct federal assistance under the Public Assistance program for Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Glynn, Jenkins, Jeff Davis, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Screven, Tattnall, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, and Ware (30) Counties.

Hurricane Matthew, in October 2016, brought devastating destruction and hurricane conditions not seen in Georgia for decades, with storm surge of up to 8 feet, winds exceeding 90 miles an hour, over 17 inches of rain over portions of the state, and, tragically, 4 Georgians lost their lives. Now, in 2017, Hurricane Irma has the potential to be even more devastating, endangering Georgians and creating an even stronger need to approve Governor Deal's request for an emergency declaration.


With the expected destruction of Hurricane Irma and ongoing recovery efforts happening in Texas and other states, we believe this storm warrants expedited consideration for an emergency declaration. Hurricane Irma has already maintained a Category 5 size for 2 entire days and will remain at a high level during its impact on the eastern U.S. coastline. The storm has already caused widespread devastation in the Caribbean and is tracking towards Florida and the eastern seaboard.

In Georgia, we want to take all necessary measures to mitigate the potential destruction of Hurricane Irma and to aid in the recovery and rebuilding process. We cannot afford to have a repeat of Hurricane Matthew when families and businesses were forced to wait for assistance from the federal government.

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,


Johnny Isakson
United States Senator


David Perdue
United States Senator

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Member of Congress

Austin Scott

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

A. Drew Ferguson IV

A. Drew Ferguson IV, DMD
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress