



October 17, 2024

The Honorable Jon Ossoff
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 303
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ossoff,

On behalf of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the businesses and communities we serve, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your bipartisan support in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Your swift and unified efforts in advocating for disaster relief have provided critical resources to businesses and families throughout the state as we begin the long process of recovery. We commend your leadership during these challenging times.

While we've made significant strides in our recovery efforts, there is still much to be done. To ensure the resilience and prosperity of our state's economy and its communities, we respectfully request your continued support in the following key areas:

1. Expanded Disaster Relief for Georgia's Agricultural, Shrimping, and Forestry Industries:

Georgia's agricultural sector, particularly our farmers, shrimpers, and foresters, have faced unprecedented losses as a result of Hurricane Helene. We urge Congress to expand relief measures to ensure these essential industries have the financial support they need to rebuild, replant, and restock. A tailored package of assistance for our farmers is crucial to restoring the bedrock of Georgia's economy.

2. Small Business Relief through Forgivable Loans via the SBA:

Following the successful model of the CARES Act, we request that small businesses and non-profits in the impacted areas have access to forgivable loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA). These organizations are the lifeblood of our communities, and further financial relief will allow them to continue their operations, retain employees, and contribute to our local economies.

3. Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):

With increased frequency and severity of natural disasters, the National Flood Insurance Program is more vital than ever. We urge you to prioritize the reauthorization of this essential program to protect homeowners, businesses, and critical infrastructure from future flooding events, ensuring affordable coverage for all Georgians.

4. Disaster Declarations for All Impacted Counties:

Many of Georgia's counties were severely impacted by Hurricane Helene, yet many still await formal disaster declarations. We ask for your advocacy with the Administration to secure these declarations for all affected counties, ensuring that federal resources and support are swiftly made available to those who need them most.

The Georgia Chamber remains committed to working with you and your colleagues as we rebuild stronger, more resilient businesses, non-profits and communities. Your continued leadership and partnership are essential to our state's recovery, and we stand ready to support your efforts in any way we can.

Thank you once again for your dedication to the people of Georgia.

Sincerely,

Chris Clark
President and CEO