

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and
Minority Leader McConnell:

As you know, Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Big Bend of Florida as a Category 4 storm and is on track to become one of the deadliest and most devastating hurricanes to hit the United States. Catastrophic wind and flooding have left parts of Tennessee unrecognizable. As preliminary disaster assessments are published, we have already seen the toll Helene's rainfall and high winds have taken on Tennessee's agricultural sectors.

We urge Congress to take swift and thorough action in appropriating critical funding upon completion of damage assessments to wholly meet the agricultural disaster relief demands of each affected state.

In Tennessee, some areas received nearly 10 – 15 inches of rainfall in addition to runoff from surrounding states, drowning crops and littering fields with debris. Ruined ready-to-harvest crops and forage, flooded pastures, equipment loss, and distressed livestock have left farmers questioning how their operations will move forward and how they will provide for their families. Producers, who are already engulfed by the ongoing farm financial crisis, will require meaningful disaster assistance to stand up their operations and continue farming.

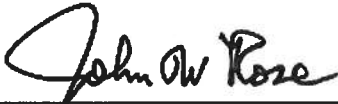
Now more than ever, the agriculture industry is relying on Congress to step up to the plate and overwhelmingly support the industry that fuels, feeds, and clothes our nation. Federal agricultural disaster assistance is vital to helping our state and country recover from the unprecedented disaster that has taken so much. We urge you to work with stakeholders, colleagues, and the Administration to provide disaster relief for growers and livestock owners. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to working alongside each of you to deliver the necessary resources for farms and rural America.

Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader
McConnell

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Sincerely,



John Rose
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Mark E. Green, M.D.
Member of Congress



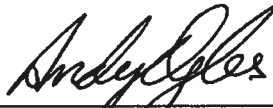
Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress