

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 17, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write in support of the State of Georgia's request that you issue a major disaster declaration as a result of the damage inflicted upon the state by the severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, beginning on the evening of March 25, 2021. According to state officials, the disaster is of "such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments and that supplemental Federal assistance is necessary."


Reports from the National Weather Service indicate that a powerful EF-4 tornado with peak wind speeds of 170 miles per hours carved a nearly 40-mile path across multiple counties in the state, originating just outside of Franklin, Georgia and finally lifting in Peachtree City, Georgia almost an hour later. Some of the most severe damage occurred when the tornado reached maximum speed as it crossed into Newnan, Georgia. At its greatest intensity, this tornado was over a mile wide, inflicting catastrophic damage on homes, businesses, and structures such as Newnan High School.

On March 30, 2021, the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) requested support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a Public Assistance (PA) joint preliminary damage assessment. Local, state, and federal officials completed Joint Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessments for eight (8) counties: Coweta, Fannin, Gilmer, Heard, Lumpkin, Pickens, Rabun, and White. The assessment teams verified more than \$28,317,034 in damage resulting from the severe storms and tornadoes.

The Joint Individual Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessments determined that the extensive rainfall, powerful tornadoes, and excessive winds damaged 1,453 homes in Coweta County, with 273 of these homes either being completely destroyed or suffering significant damage. Newnan, in particular, needs immediate federal assistance to help rebuild homes and businesses damaged by the storms and tornadoes, leaving many residents homeless, jobless, and without the financial means to absorb the costs of repairs as a result of uninsured or underinsured damages.

Based on the devastating impact of the storms and tornadoes, federal assistance, including Public Assistance for the eight counties listed above, Individual Assistance for Coweta County, and Hazard Mitigation statewide, will be critical for the recovery of our communities. We strongly support the state's request for a major disaster declaration, and we thank you for prompt consideration. We stand ready to work with you and your Administration to support these critical recovery efforts in Georgia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Warnock" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reverend Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Ossoff" in a cursive style.

Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Drew Ferguson" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Drew Ferguson  
Member of Congress