

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 13, 2022

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

Dear President Biden,

I write in support of the State of Georgia's request that you issue a major disaster declaration as a result of severe flash flooding in Chattooga County, Georgia beginning on September 4, 2022. 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 Federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of the State."

At approximately 5:00 A.M. on September 4, 2022, the National Weather Service issued Flash Flood Warnings for Chattooga County. By 10:00 A.M. that day, the Flash Flood Warning was upgraded to a Flash Flood Emergency for multiple municipalities within Chattooga County. The following day, September 5, 2022, a thunderstorm moved across the area with rainfall causing additional damages to businesses and homes in Summerville. Over the duration of this flooding event, rainfall totaled 14 inches in parts of Chattooga County.

On September 4, 2022, Governor Kemp declared a State of Emergency, allowing Georgia to take proactive measures to save lives and coordinate response efforts. In addition, Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) requested support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct an Individual Assistance (IA) joint preliminary damage assessment.

This damage assessment indicates that additional aid is required for the residents of Chattooga County. Over 21 percent of residents live below the federal poverty line, and only 0.2 percent of households inundated by flooding have flood insurance. Due to the extensive damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure caused by the flash flooding, many residents are without the financial means to absorb the costs of repairs. As a result, Chattooga County, and specifically the City of Summerville, requires immediate federal assistance to help rebuild.

Based on the severity of flooding and extensive need in Chattooga County, Individual Assistance through FEMA is necessary. I strongly support the state's request for a major disaster declaration, and I thank you for prompt consideration. I stand ready to work with you and your Administration to support these critical recovery efforts in Georgia.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator