

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 4, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to support South Carolina's request to increase the federal cost-share from the standard 75 percent to 100 percent for debris removal and emergency protective measures in response to the crisis brought on by Hurricane Helene.

Hurricane Helene moved through South Carolina on September 26-27, 2024, and left devastation in its wake. At the height of the storm, 1.3 million South Carolinians were without power and hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians are still without power. The storm resulted in historic levels of debris and resources have been activated across the state to clear debris and repair critical infrastructure. Most tragic of all, at least 39 South Carolinians have died because of the storm.

At the time of writing, twenty-nine counties have met their county Public Assistance threshold and the damage is judged to be more than \$198M, which exceeds the state's Fiscal Year 2024 Public Assistance threshold of \$9.4M. As damage assessments continue, this number will certainly climb. After touring the state, we have seen firsthand the damage of this powerful storm. Given the tremendous amount of debris and costs associated with power restoration, the state has requested a 100 percent federal cost-share for categories A (debris removal) and B (emergency protective measures) for all counties designated for Public Assistance for at least 180 days. We support this request and ask that it be granted in order to expedite the recovery efforts.

We stand ready to act to ensure that critical federal resources are allocated to aid the citizens of South Carolina. Thank you for the consideration of this request and we look forward to your quick reply.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator