

United States Senate

October 18, 2024

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

Dear President Biden:

I am writing to express my strong support for distributing disaster relief funds for agricultural losses due to natural disasters in the form of block grants, if requested by the state. I have been advocating for this proposal since Hurricane Ian caused significant damage to Florida's agricultural industry in 2022.

I appreciated our conversation on October 3rd, when I shared this request with you and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Vilsack, and our subsequent conversations on October 10th and 13th when we discussed this urgent matter. Just yesterday, I spoke with farmers and ranchers in Florida who have suffered substantial losses from hurricanes in previous years, including the recent impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. They overwhelmingly support the need for relief in the form of block grants to expedite recovery efforts.

Given the immense need, I respectfully ask that the Office of Management and Budget work quickly to determine the costs of recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and immediately submit a supplemental appropriations request to Congress that includes this necessary USDA block grant flexibility.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator