

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

September 23, 2024

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

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Mr. President:

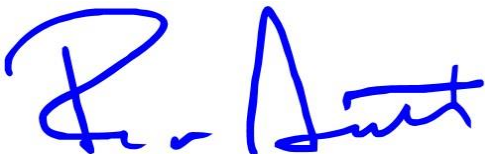
We write in support of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's request for a pre-landfall emergency declaration for 41 of Florida's counties due to Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine (Helene), which is expected to strengthen into a major hurricane and impact Florida in the coming days.

Currently, Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine (Helene) is expected to make landfall on Florida's Gulf coast by Thursday afternoon. In addition to strong winds and heavy rain, this approaching storm is expected to bring severe storm surge, flooding, hazardous seas, and the potential for isolated tornadic activity across Florida. Although Florida is no stranger to hurricanes, this storm approaches as many areas of the Florida Big Bend coastline remain particularly vulnerable to tropical-related impacts due to damage caused by Hurricane Debby in August.

Ensuring that the state has access to the federal resources it needs is imperative to protecting Floridians, property, and our communities. As such, we request that you promptly approve Governor DeSantis's request for a pre-landfall emergency declaration.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator