

TOM RICE

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4007

December 12, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

I write to you in regards to severe damages in the Pee Dee and Grand Strand as a result of Hurricane Matthew. First of all, thank you for your remarkable leadership and assistance in the wake of the storm. I know many lives were saved because of your foresight and prompt response. Unfortunately, there are devastated communities in economically distressed areas of my district that cannot rebuild on their own. I have been working with the federal agencies of jurisdiction and my Congressional colleagues to ensure resources are available for their recovery.

As stated in our delegation letter to the President dated November 22, 2016, there was little time between when Matthew made landfall and when Congress was scheduled to consider government funding legislation. This timeframe provided obstacles in calculating unmet needs but was an opportunity that could not be missed. I worked as hard as possible to coordinate with pertinent entities to ensure the best South Carolina numbers available were considered. Fortunately, emergency assistance was included in the aforementioned legislation and South Carolina, as well as other disaster-stricken states, is eligible for those resources. Those communities with the most severe damages should be addressed. As you know, towns like Nichols and communities like Bucksport were completely devastated. These folks, in particular, are in dire need.

South Carolina went through this process last year and I know you are well educated on the matter. In the coming weeks, the Department of Housing and Urban Development will issue guidance and an allocation of Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Relief for states. Assuming the unmet needs of South Carolina qualify for an allocation, I respectfully request your Action Plan considers the full extent of damages that individuals and communities have endured. If any needs cannot be addressed due to limitations of resources, I request those unmet needs be calculated and communicated to me.

GRAND STRAND REGIONAL OFFICE:
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PEE DEE REGIONAL OFFICE:
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FLORENCE, SC 29501
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My district needs help. Incurring two major flood events in one year has had devastating effects. I intend to advocate for those with unmet needs to ensure all communities can rebuild and regain economic stability. I hope to work with you toward these goals.

Sincerely,



Tom Rice
Member of Congress