



R.N. JOHNSON, INC.

COTTON MERCHANDISING • GINNING • WAREHOUSING

P.O. BOX 229 • MAYESVILLE, SC 29104

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September 20, 2015
Governor Nikki R. Haley
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Flood disaster for Clarendon, Sumter, Lee and Florence Counties

Dear Governor Haley:

I am writing in request of help for our seasonal agricultural business. My brother and I operate a Cotton Gin and Cotton Warehouse. A maintained payroll enabled us to repair and update our gin for the upcoming 2015 harvest season. The age of the gin requires a substantial cost in repairs. We ginned 38,000 bales of cotton and warehoused over 65,000 bales last year. This year we question if we will gin 20 percent of last year's volume.

The recent flooding has devastated the cotton crop in addition to many other crops. The Commissioner of Agriculture has cautioned all farmers about the continuing additional expenses for harvesting. We have depleted our operating capital and are in need of generating income through operation of our cotton gin. Insurance adjusters appear to be very spathic to farmers with many adjusters claiming the cotton as less than 50 pounds per acre. With such a low determined rate the farmer will not harvest leaving us at total loss of income for the year.

Our business future will suffer greatly. I am very thankful for the help FEMA appears to be offering to help me for repair from minor flooding of my home. The MPCI and STAX crop insurance I purchased on our cotton production was a major blessing. These avenues allow me to recover from my home and farming losses. However, there appears to be no help to recover the losses from our Ginning and Warehousing operations.

We employee approximately 15 people in rural Lee County year-round and over 50 people seasonally. We are 1 of only 3 businesses operating in the Town of Mayesville. These paychecks will be missed without our operation and provoke vital repercussions. If the lost proves true, the infrastructure we offer though ginning and warehousing cotton will significantly reap havoc on the future of Cotton production in our rural area, as well as the future of our rural employees.

It appears the Town of Mayesville will miss the continuous 24-hour hum of the Cotton Gin as well as the hustle and bustle of over 11 Diesel trucks entering and exiting the town to procure a Cotton harvest. With all due respect, please understand and evaluate on the agricultural businesses like ours in any disaster funding. Agriculture as a whole is left abandoned and with no options if neglected in disaster relief funding.

Sincerely,

James Johnson



