

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

In light of the significant damage that resulted from Hurricane Zeta, a Category 2 storm that hit the State of Mississippi on October 28, 2020, we request your full consideration of Governor Tate Reeves's request for a Major Disaster Declaration under the Stafford Act for individual and public assistance, as well as U.S. Small Business Administration assistance.

We appreciate the continued efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and anticipate expeditious assistance from the agency to support state and local officials in Mississippi who are responding to the devastating effects of Hurricane Zeta and other storms while simultaneously working to mitigate COVID-19 in our state.

As Governor Reeves indicated in his request, current reports indicate that at least 135 people were injured and two Mississippians lost their lives as a result of these storms. Damage also severely devastated local communities, homes, and public infrastructure. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments found an estimated \$79 million in damage to public infrastructure and more than \$10 million in damage to homes and businesses.

In addition to damage caused by sustained winds of 104 miles per hour, storm surge levels reached eight feet in some counties and spanned the Mississippi coastline. Over 200,000 Mississippians reported power outages across 38 counties and many did not regain power for more than a week.

On October 28, 2020, Governor Reeves declared a State of Emergency in Mississippi to assist in the recovery and requested a Pre-Landfall Disaster Declaration ahead of the storm. Members of the Mississippi delegation also sent a letter in support of Governor Reeves's request for a Pre-Landfall Disaster Declaration. The request was not granted.

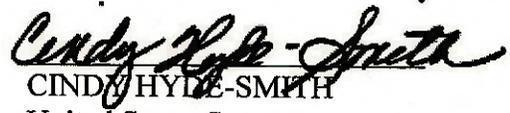
State resources are already strained by the ongoing effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and the quantity and severity of multiple federally declared disasters this hurricane season, including Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Sally. In addition, the State continues to support efforts to recover from 10 federally declared disasters that have impacted citizens within all 82 counties in Mississippi during 2020. Without significant additional federal resources, we are concerned that Mississippi may not be able to recover.

We are determined to help Mississippi recover by supporting the affected local communities and the State as they work to rebuild from these devastating weather events.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need further assistance in this effort.

Sincerely,

  
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ROGER F. WICKER  
United States Senator

  
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CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
United States Senator

  
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BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

  
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STEVEN M. PALAZZO  
Member of Congress

  
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TRENT KELLY  
Member of Congress

  
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MICHAEL GUEST  
Member of Congress