

CLAY HIGGINS
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

MEMBER, HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
CHAIRMAN, BORDER SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT
TRANSPORTATION AND MARITIME SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE
NATIONAL SECURITY, THE
BORDER, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES

October 4, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden,

I implore you to exercise your authority as Commander in Chief and make additional Department of Defense (DOD) resources available for the federal response to Hurricane Helene.

The magnitude and scope of devastation left by Hurricane Helene is unlike that of any disaster I have previously witnessed. I am growing increasingly concerned that our traditional response model is incapable of meeting the demands of this moment. While I appreciate my colleagues from these areas who are working tirelessly to deliver relief, it is my belief that DOD assets should be made available to supplement FEMA and other federal response efforts.

Americans in many of these remote communities are left dying from hunger and thirst. The nature of this disaster has left them unreachable by traditional response mechanisms. With widespread destruction of infrastructure and difficult terrain, military assets are needed to airdrop personnel and supplies for life-saving operations. We should be running airlift operations and delivering hope in this time of despair.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clay Higgins".

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

CC:

General Charles Q. Brown Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Secretary Lloyd Austin, Department of Defense
Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Department of Homeland Security
Governor Ron DeSantis, State of Florida
Governor Brian Kemp, State of Georgia
Governor Roy Cooper, State of North Carolina
Governor Henry McMaster, State of South Carolina
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