



September 30, 2024

Honorable Members of Georgia's Congressional Delegation,

As you know, Hurricane Helene has had catastrophic impact on our state's agricultural industry and farm families across Georgia. Immediate action is needed to support impacted farmers and producers. We ask that you work with Congressional Leadership to appropriate much-needed emergency relief, structured as a Block Grant to the state, to assist Georgia farmers and producers impacted by Hurricane Helene.

As you are well aware, agriculture is our state's #1 industry – contributing over \$83 billion to our economy every year, employing over 320,000 Georgians, and sustaining rural economies across the state. Hurricane Helene could not have come at a worse time for our farmers and producers, who are already faced with record setting drops in net farm income caused by inflation, high input costs, labor shortages, global competition, and low commodity prices.

Right now, the future of hundreds of agricultural operations across Georgia is uncertain, and without immediate assistance, some will not make it to the next growing season. We stand ready to utilize every state resource at our disposal to assist in the recovery effort. We are grateful for your continued support of our state and our farmers, and we look forward to working with each of you to help deliver federal funding to our farmers and producers to help them recover and keep our state growing.

God Bless,

Tyler J Harper, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Agriculture

Sen. Russ Goodman, Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

Handwritten signature of Robert Dickey in black ink.

Rep. Robert Dickey, Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture & Consumer Affairs