## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 13th, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer Majority Leader United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Minority Leader United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker of the House United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries Minority Leader United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

As you work to craft an emergency disaster supplemental package, we ask that you include much-needed funding for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) disaster loan program.

As you are aware, this critical program provides direct, low-interest, long-term loans to businesses and people affected by disasters, as well as disaster assistance for homeowners, renters, nonprofits, and businesses of all sizes.

While victims remain able to apply for disaster loans and SBA is able to review those applications, we are deeply concerned that SBA has announced it will no longer be able to make offers of assistance until additional funds are appropriated. When our constituents' applications make it through the weeks-long review process, they must receive offers of assistance without delay.

As our constituents and small business across the country work to recover and rebuild from three devastating hurricanes, along with numerous other natural disasters, they need to know that we have their backs.

These disaster loans are a vital lifeline for small businesses, providing relief to help them stay afloat, keep employees on the payroll and avoid bankruptcy amidst the disruption from disasters.

Small businesses are truly the backbone of our communities, employing over 61 million Americans and creating over one million new jobs annually. Without additional funding, small businesses will be left without the support they need to recover, rebuild and reopen their doors.

While our constituents have been resilient in the face of these catastrophic storms, they require the full support of the federal government to help them get back on their feet and help our communities and economy recover.

Our constituents are depending on clear Congressional action and cannot afford any extended disruptions in funding for this proven and successful program.

Again, we respectfully request that you provide robust funding for the SBA disaster assistance loan program to ensure small businesses across the country continue to thrive, grow and create more good-paying jobs.

Sincerely,

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Vern Buchanan Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen Member of Congress

Brian J. Mast Member of Congress

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Barry Loudermilk Member of Congress

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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter Member of Congress

Neal P. Dunn, M.D. Member of Congress

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