

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 3, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to express our support for the State of Florida's July 1, 2012 request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the State, under the terms of the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*. Tropical Storm Debby has significantly impacted Florida with major flooding and infrastructure damage in several communities*.

Tropical Storm Debby developed in the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall on June 27 on the Florida coast, resulting in coastal flooding, erosion and other significant damage throughout the State. Several rivers across Florida have reached major flood stage, and two rivers, the Sopchoppy and the St. Marys, have reached record breaking crests.

The State Emergency Response Team continues to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) in counties impacted by the storm. These Joint PDA Teams have completed assessments in Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Pasco and Wakulla Counties and will continue working in additional counties as the response efforts progress. The scope of the State of Florida's request may be amended to add requests for Public Assistance in the above listed counties, as well as Individual and Public Assistance for additional counties based on the results of the Preliminary Damage Assessments.

As Florida Governor Rick Scott's Disaster Declaration request is reviewed by FEMA and the Administration, we ask that all due consideration is given to address the serious effects of Tropical Storm Debby on impacted Florida communities.

Sincerely,



Steve Southerland
U. S. Congress



Cliff Stearns
U.S. Congress



Gus Bilirakis
U.S. Congress

*Updated Assessment Report attached.