



September 15, 2025

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Dear Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations Subcommittee on Hurricane Response and Recovery,

Deputy Commerce Secretary Stephanie McGarrah, Recovery Advisor Jonathan Krebs, and I have received your request for our appearance to testify before the commission on September 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Raleigh to discuss topics related to Helene recovery. While we always make every effort to accommodate requests to appear before the General Assembly, we will be unable to attend a hearing during the week of September 24. We are happy to work with the commission and its staff to identify a later date for a hearing on Helene recovery and will answer any written questions the committee has.

As you are likely aware, the proposed date for this hearing comes three days prior to the one-year milestone of Hurricane Helene's landfall in western North Carolina.

In the coming two weeks, Deputy Secretary Stephanie McGarrah, and Recovery Advisor Jonathan Krebs, and I have planned a significant number of engagements and travel, much of which will be in western North Carolina. Among other obligations, we will be meeting officials and constituents in the communities we serve. Jonathan Krebs and I also plan to attend the President's FEMA Review Council meeting in western North Carolina on September 22 in order to highlight North Carolina's recovery and advocate for federal support. Furthermore, I anticipate traveling to Washington D.C. to advocate for additional federal funding for Helene recovery.

We appreciate the commission's focus on Helene recovery efforts and their partnership in ensuring the State of North Carolina delivers the outcomes that western North Carolina residents deserve. Transparency and accountability are core principles that guide our work toward this goal. We want to make sure we have adequate time to prepare and present full and accurate



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information for the commission so that we can afford those values the full rigor and seriousness warranted.

We hope that we can find an alternate date soon that allows us to provide the information requested by the General Assembly. We thank the commission for their commitment to the work of Helene recovery and look forward to our continued partnership.

Respectfully,

Matt Calabria

[Matt Calabria \(Sep 15, 2025 11:37:04 EDT\)](#)

Matt Calabria

Cc:

Stephanie McGarrah

Jonathan Krebs

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Final Audit Report

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