

September 18, 2025

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

Deputy Secretary Stephanie McGarrah, Recovery Advisor Jonathan Krebs, and I have received your response regarding the Commission's intention to move forward with its hearing as scheduled on September 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Raleigh. We appreciate your continued attention to the important issue of western North Carolina's recovery.

As you know, the time surrounding the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene is a busy one, filled with efforts to honor those who have suffered and died, remember residents' experiences, reflect on the progress made so far, and discuss the work ahead. Our intention in requesting that we find another time to appear before you was in the spirit of engaging with constituents in western North Carolina while also affording the Commission the information and oversight it desires, all while managing the programs that are so essential for western North Carolina recovery.

However, we hear your emphasis on the timeliness of this conversation. Accordingly, we will plan to rearrange our schedules in order to testify alongside our critical partners in recovery.

We agree that it is imperative that you are kept apprised on the status of recovery. To that end, we would like to offer three invitations. First, we continue to invite legislators and their staffs to attend our biweekly briefings. Second, we invite legislators to attend (whether virtually or in-person) the monthly meetings of Governor's Advisory Council on Western North Carolina Recovery which are open to the public. Third, we always welcome—and frequently receive—contact from individual legislators, whether it be related to individual constituent issues, programmatic questions, or work in the community.





We appreciate that the General Assembly shares our commitment to ensuring that western North Carolinians receive the support they need, and we thank the Commission for its continued partnership in that work.

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Respectfully,

Matt Calabria

Cc:

Stephanie McGarrah

Jonathan Krebs

Joe Colletti

Clark Chapin

Haley Phillips

John Lucey

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Anca Grozav

Mike Arnold

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