



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

RALEIGH 27601

August 14, 2018

President Pro Tempore Phil Berger
N.C. Senate
2007 Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Senator Berger,

As Senators for regions impacted by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, we write to request the Senate convene an oversight hearing to look into Governor Cooper's failure to deliver aid to our constituents.

Thank you for the attention you have shown our districts since this tragedy, and for quickly passing state legislation to remove any potential legislative roadblocks that might impede the recovery effort. Thankfully, state law and regulations have not caused any delay. The same cannot be said, however, for the shocking incompetence on display from Governor Cooper's flailing effort to deliver federal aid to our residents.

Hurricane Matthew and the resultant floods struck our communities 674 days ago. Congress appropriated its first round of Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) funding 612 days ago. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which oversees CDBG-DR funding, informed the State of North Carolina of the rules it had to follow in disbursing the aid 573 days ago.

Our question is simple: what has Governor Cooper been doing for 573 days?

We'll tell you what our constituents have been doing: waiting hopelessly and in vain for a relief program that's overrun with allegations of corruption and shackled by incompetence.

Earlier this year, the Cooper Administration assured our constituents that home repair projects would begin by June 30, 2018. After blowing past that deadline, the Administration blamed federally-mandated environmental reviews for the hold-up – even though Congress stipulated environmental review requirements nearly two years ago and every major disaster recovery in recent memory has had to abide by the same rules.

Even more disturbing are recent reports that the Cooper Administration rigged bidding procedures to deliver a multi-million contract to a particular vendor.

Recent events make it glaringly clear that Governor Cooper has not properly managed the disaster relief program and his administration needs to answer for its behavior. Therefore, we respectfully request the Senate convene an oversight hearing to get to the bottom of this unmitigated disaster. Thank you for your consideration.

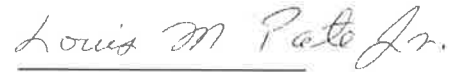
Sincerely,



Danny Earl Britt, Jr.
NC State Senator
District 13



Wesley Meredith
NC State Senator
District 19



Louis Pate, Jr.
NC State Senator
District 7