

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2022

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We write in support of the State of Florida's request for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to declare a disaster for Florida counties that were impacted by Hurricane Ian, and to make assistance available to growers whose crops were damaged or destroyed.

Florida's growers have a unique role in the American food economy, as Florida is one of the only locations in the United States where major agricultural production can occur in the winter and spring months. Florida's agriculture industry feeds the more than one hundred million Americans who live along the eastern seaboard, when they otherwise do not have access to domestically-grown fresh food. In order to support the growers who were affected by Hurricane Ian, and to ensure that they can recover from losses and continue their important service of feeding America, the expeditious approval of a disaster declaration is warranted and necessary in order to have a successful winter and spring harvest season.

As you know, Florida's growers have been severely impacted by a range of challenges. Your support for the State of Florida's request would make a meaningful impact for our growers, and assist their efforts in support of our food security and national security.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



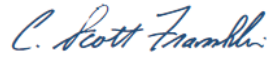
Rick Scott  
U.S. Senator



Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



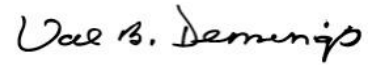
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Val Demings  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress