Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President,

We thank you for approving Governor Abbott's major disaster declaration request (FEMA-4935-DR) to unlock urgently needed disaster assistance for Texans impacted by the devastating flooding in July of last year. While the currently available Public Assistance helps some impacted Texans rebuild their lives, communities across Texas continue to struggle because Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) remain unavailable throughout the affected area.

Governor Abbott determined that the severity and scale of the damage caused by the July storms and floods exceeded the scope of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance program. In response, the Governor requested statewide Hazard Mitigation (HM) and Individual Assistance (IA) for 30 Texas counties impacted by severe weather and floods occurring between July 12 and August 4, 2026. In September, more than two months after the state's initial request, FEMA determined that Governor Abbott's federal assistance requests and subsequent Preliminary Damage Assessments did not meet the "severity and magnitude to warrant the designation of the Individual Assistance program under FEMA-4935-DR." Furthermore, FEMA argued that the additional requested counties' "damage … is not of the severity and magnitude to warrant their designation for Public Assistance."

FEMA's assessment does not accurately reflect the critical resources needed to help communities across our state recover. Texas has appealed FEMA's denial of IA and PA for the impacted areas, along with its denial of statewide Hazard Mitigation assistance, and we therefore respectfully urge you to quickly approve the appeal in its entirety to deliver the federal resources Texans deserve as they work to rebuild.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,





Ted Cruz
United States Senate

Chip Roy
Member of Congress