

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 19, 2025

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

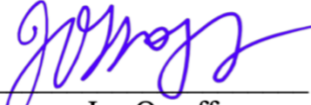
Dear Secretary Rollins:

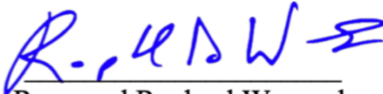
Congratulations on your new role as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Georgia farmers remain Georgia's economic engine as they feed and clothe our Nation and the world. Accordingly, we urge you to promptly disburse disaster assistance payments that Congress appropriated in December and work with the Georgia Department of Agriculture to meet the needs of Georgia farmers.

The 2024 hurricane season caused billions of dollars in direct losses for Georgia's farmers, foresters, poultry producers, and ranchers.<sup>1</sup> That is why, alongside 34 members of Congress from southeastern states, we demanded that Congressional leaders in the House and Senate prioritize disaster assistance to impacted farmers following Hurricane Helene.

After Hurricane Michael devastated Georgia in 2018, it took Congress eight months to pass a disaster assistance package. Then, it took more than a year for USDA to begin making funds available to farmers in dire need. In contrast, Congress passed last year's disaster assistance package in less than 90 days after Hurricane Helene. We urge you to work with the Georgia Department of Agriculture in a similarly expeditious manner to ensure that disaster assistance is made available rapidly to help Georgia farmers recover. Georgia's farmers, who are the backbone of Georgia's rural communities and our State's economy, cannot afford further delay.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://extension.uga.edu/topic-areas/timely-topics/helene-report.html>