



*N.C. House of Representatives
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601*

June 3, 2019

Speaker Moore,

In light of the recently released report from the Program Evaluation Division that uncovers “missteps,” “delays” and “unnecessary spending” in the Cooper Administration’s response to Hurricane Matthew, we are requesting that you re-authorize the House Select Committee on Disaster Relief so that we can continue monitoring the state’s recovery efforts and make sure relief is getting to those in need.

Remarkably, it is noted in the report that “more than two years since Hurricane Matthew made landfall, the state has spent only 1% of its total \$236.5 million CDBG-DR award” provided by the federal government to help storm victims. By comparison, the report points out that South Carolina, which received these funds at the same time as North Carolina, had spent 22% of its grant money.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the North Carolina General Assembly passed multiple disaster relief packages that totaled nearly \$400 million in state money to help storm victims recover. As the co-chairs of the House Select Committee on Disaster Relief, we also held numerous meetings and worked with the Cooper Administration to make sure we gave them all the tools they needed to ensure these resources were allocated in a timely and efficient manner. Unfortunately, they have failed to get the job done.

We believe this is unacceptable and it is our duty as legislators to help bring accountability and oversight while also identifying opportunities to speed up the process and make sure it does not happen again.

Nearly three years after Hurricane Matthew, far too many individuals, families and communities are still waiting for the help they were promised and deserve. Furthermore, following the historic devastation of Hurricane Florence just last year, it is critical that we make sure the administration does not make the same mistakes.

The people of eastern and southeastern North Carolina deserve better. They cannot afford any more delays and missteps. As representatives of districts that were severely impacted by both hurricanes, we are asking you to reestablish the House Select Committee on Disaster Relief to ensure relief finally gets to those who are in desperate need of help.

We thank you for your continued support and leadership in helping make sure our fellow North Carolinians get the assistance they deserve.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Bell in black ink.

Rep. John Bell
House Majority Leader
House District 10

Handwritten signature of Brenden Jones in black ink.

Rep. Brenden Jones
Deputy House Majority Leader
House District 46