



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR

January 17, 2025

Ed Fears, Director
Office of Disaster Assistance
Field Operations Center East
U.S. Small Business Administration
101 Marietta Street NW, Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2725

Dear Mr. Fears:

The State of South Carolina suffered damage to individual homes and businesses in Orangeburg County from a severe storm resulting in significant flooding from November 6, 2024, to November 11, 2024. Orangeburg County received more than 12.4 inches of rain in a 24-hour period causing the Edisto River to crest at record heights in several locations. The flooding caused two deaths as well as significant damage. Orangeburg County also experienced impacts from Tropical Storm Debby in August and Hurricane Helene in September.

A Small Business Administration (SBA) Damage Survey was conducted in Orangeburg County on November 25, 2024, and November 26, 2024, and based on the results of the survey, I certify that there are at least 25 homes and businesses in the county that sustained a minimum of 40% uninsured or underinsured loss: 26 residences suffered major damage, and 14 had minor damage. In addition to these residences, six businesses had major damage, and 11 businesses had minor damage. Results of the Damage Survey are enclosed.

On January 14, 2025, I received correspondence from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denying the State of South Carolina's December 13, 2024 request for Individual Assistance (IA) as part of a major disaster declaration for Orangeburg County for this event. Based on the results of the damage survey and denial of the State's request for IA, I respectfully request that the SBA declare Orangeburg County a disaster area and implement the SBA's Disaster Loan Program.

Mr. Ed Fears
Page 2
January 17, 2025

On behalf of the people of South Carolina, thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance with this matter. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Director Kim Stenson of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division at 803-737-8500.

Yours very truly,



Henry Dargan McMaster

Enclosure:

SBA Survey Recap, Orangeburg, November 25-26, 2024
Major disaster declaration request via FEMA to President Biden, December 13, 2024
(includes FEMA Form 010-0-13)
FEMA Administrator's disaster declaration request denial letter, January 14, 2025

