



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

May 24, 2024

Mr. Kem Fleming, 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. Fleming:

On April 20, 2024, a sudden and severe storm, which included high winds and large hail, caused significant damage to homes and businesses in York County, South Carolina. Based on the National Weather Service damage survey after the storm, the late-afternoon storm system had a path more than 5.6 miles wide and 22.6 miles long. It produced 70- to 90-mph straight-line winds and large hail (2 to 2.75 inches in diameter). High winds and wind-driven hail caused significant damage to residences, businesses, and utility infrastructure. Approximately 7,600 customers were without power—some for several days. The storm destroyed at least 16 homes and left large amounts of vegetative and structural debris on municipal, county, and state roads. Given the storm's significant impacts, local officials have expressed amazement that it did not cause any deaths or serious injuries.

A Small Business Administration (SBA) Damage Survey was conducted on May 1–2, and based on the results of the survey, I certify that there are at least 25 homes and businesses in York County that have sustained a minimum of 40% uninsured or underinsured loss. Specifically, based on the SBA Damage Survey, 24 residences were validated with major damage and 49 with minor damage. Six businesses were validated as having sustained major damage and five with minor damage.

On May 22, 2024, I received correspondence from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denying the State of South Carolina's May 7, 2024 request for a major disaster declaration for Individual Assistance (IA) for York County. Based on the results of the damage

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survey and denial of the State's major disaster declaration request, I respectfully request that the SBA declare York County a disaster area and implement the SBA's Disaster Loan Program.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance with this matter. Should you have any questions or need any additional information or documentation related to this request, please contact South Carolina Emergency Management Division Director Kim Stenson at 803-737-8500.

Yours very truly,



Henry McMaster

Enclosures

- SBA survey recap, York County (May 1-2, 2024)
- South Carolina's May 7, 2024 major disaster declaration request (includes FEMA Form 010-0-13)
- FEMA Administrator's May 22, 2024 denial of disaster declaration request