

By Senator Montford

3-03854C-19

20191844__

Senate Resolution

A resolution to the Congress of the United States urging members of Congress to immediately pass a federal supplemental appropriations package for disaster relief and recovery to assist those attempting to rebuild their lives in the wake of Hurricane Michael.

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael made landfall near Mexico Beach as an extraordinarily powerful Category 4 hurricane, and, as a result of the storm, a state and national disaster was declared, and

WHEREAS, the impacted Panhandle region of Florida includes Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington Counties, and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Michael damaged or destroyed more than 144,000 insured homes in Florida, thus far resulting in more than \$6 billion in property insurance claims, and agricultural losses or damages in this state are believed to be approaching \$1.5 billion, and

WHEREAS, the impacts of the fourth-strongest Atlantic hurricane ever to make landfall in the United States are still evident in the Panhandle, and

WHEREAS, some residents in the impacted counties are still in the process of repairing and restoring their properties and businesses, while others are still without a permanent place to live, and

WHEREAS, local hospitals, educational facilities, and other

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30 community facilities are still struggling to recover from the
31 impacts of the storm so that they may return to full delivery of
32 services to area residents, and

33 WHEREAS, economic losses in fiscally constrained counties
34 pose additional challenges, and overcoming those challenges
35 requires the full support of federal and state governmental
36 agencies and resources, and

37 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to assisting those
38 impacted counties and their residents in recovering from the
39 devastation of Hurricane Michael, both in the short term and in
40 the long term, and

41 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes not only its role but
42 also the role of the federal government in accelerating Federal
43 Emergency Management Agency payments to survivors of previous
44 disasters and in allocating vital resources for the people of
45 Northwest Florida so that they may rebuild in the aftermath of
46 Hurricane Michael, NOW, THEREFORE,

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48 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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50 That the Congress of the United States is urged to
51 immediately pass a federal supplemental appropriations package
52 for disaster relief and recovery which provides needed resources
53 to residents, businesses, local governments, and other entities
54 in the Florida Panhandle and to recognize the crucial role of
55 these federal resources in addressing the diverse and unique
56 challenges of rebuilding after Hurricane Michael.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch
58 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States,

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59 to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of
60 the United States House of Representatives, and to each member
61 of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.