

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President:

We write in strong support of Governor Roy Cooper's request for a major disaster declaration for North Carolina as a result of national, statewide, and local efforts to combat the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As confirmed COVID-19 cases have continued to rise, state and local entities have taken measures to mitigate this public health emergency. On March 23, 2020, Gov. Cooper took the extraordinary step of closing schools statewide until May 15, 2020; prohibiting gatherings of greater than 50 people; and closing thousands of small businesses. Bars and restaurants have been limited to take-out orders for a week. While these necessary actions will mitigate the spread of COVID-19, millions of North Carolinians will experience significant economic hardships due to this unprecedented health crisis.

North Carolina is home to more than 833,000 small businesses that employ roughly 1.6 million individuals. Many small business owners, employees, and vendors are already experiencing economic hardship in the form of layoffs, lost wages, lost revenues, and difficulty paying their lease. We have heard from countless small business owners who are devastated, not only because they are losing money, but also because they've had to lay off workers whose families depend on their jobs. Yesterday, Mecklenburg County issued a stay-at-home order which begins on Thursday. As Charlotte and Mecklenburg County look forward to hosting the Republican National Convention and hundreds of other events over the next year, we know we must maintain our small businesses and provide immediate assistance to out-of-work employees in order to shore up our economy and continue to be a welcoming community to all.

Furthermore, the ripple effects are beginning to be felt throughout our communities, the state, and national economy. Over 80,000 North Carolinians applied for unemployment insurance last week, far exceeding the typical weekly average. Many workers in local industries, from motorsports to mom and pop shops, do not currently qualify for many forms of federal aid, but would under a major disaster declaration. Given the extent of the severe economic impacts of this pandemic, a major declaration is warranted. A major disaster declaration will allow North Carolina to get the resources it needs to provide relief during this public health emergency.

We respectfully request that you expedite your consideration of this request and keep us informed of any new developments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rep. Adams directly or Kichelle Webster in her office at (202) 779-0187.

We look forward to working with you to help residents weather the impacts of COVID-19. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress (NC-12)

Signatories

Hon. Elyse Dashew, Chair
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

Hon. George Dunlap, Chairman
Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

Hon. Woody Washam
Mayor of Cornelius

Hon. Rusty Knox
Mayor of Davidson

Hon. John Aneralla
Mayor of Huntersville

Hon. John Higdon
Mayor of Matthews

Hon. Brad Simmons
Mayor of Mint Hill

Hon. Jack Edwards
Mayor of Pineville

Mecklenburg County State Senators

Sen. Jeff Jackson

Sen. Rob Bryan

Sen. Natasha Marcus

Sen. Mujtaba Mohammad

Sen. Joyce Waddell

Mecklenburg County State Representatives

Rep. Kelly Alexander

Rep. John Autry

Rep. Chaz Beasley

Rep. Mary Belk

Rep. Becky Carney

Rep. Christy Clark

Rep. Carla Cunningham

Rep. Wesley Harris

Rep. Rachel Hunt

Rep. Brandon Lofton

Rep. Carolyn Logan

Rep. Nasif Majeed