

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3201

September 17, 2004

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to urge you to swiftly approve Governor Mike Easley's request for a major disaster declaration for parts of North Carolina impacted by the remnants of Hurricane Ivan.

As you know, the state is still reeling from severe flooding caused by Hurricane Frances. Some residents and business owners did not have the time to even begin the clean-up process before they were forced from their homes today. Unfortunately, eight North Carolinians have lost their lives as a result of this devastating storm.

Governor Easley has declared the state a disaster area and has activated the National Guard. He has activated the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and doubled the number of State Highway Patrol Troopers in the western counties. The people of North Carolina are again exhibiting great courage. Neighbors are helping neighbors, and volunteers are already arriving to help feed and shelter the victims. But it is abundantly clear that federal resources will be needed to assist the state. I urge you to approve Governor Easley's request for an expedited disaster declaration.

I sincerely appreciate your attention to the Governor's request.

Yours sincerely,



John Edwards

JRE/lmg

cc: Under Secretary Michael D. Brown