

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3201

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TRANSPORTATION
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
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JUDICIARY
SMALL BUSINESS
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September 9, 2004

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

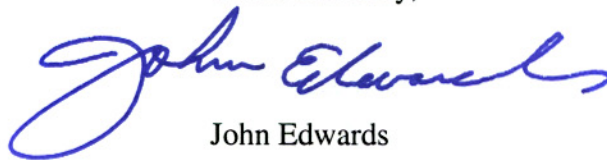
I write to urge you to swiftly approve Governor Mike Easley's request for a federal disaster declaration for parts of North Carolina impacted by the remnants of Hurricane Frances.

The people of North Carolina have demonstrated courage in dealing with this disaster, but they need our help to rebuild their communities. Homes have been flooded, businesses forced closed, crops ruined, roads blocked and drinking water systems washed out.

As of this morning, 15 western North Carolina counties had declared states of emergency. Rainfall totals topped 17 inches in some locations. Rivers have flooded their banks and parts of the Blue Ridge Parkway remain closed due to rockslides. While it is too soon to estimate the total damage, it is clear that the damage is widespread and for some western N.C. families and farmers, completely devastating.

I strongly urge you to make available to North Carolina the federal resources it will need to clean up and repair the damage this deadly storm has left behind. I sincerely appreciate your attention to the Governor's request.

Yours sincerely,



John Edwards

JRE/lmg