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Congress of the United States
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September 23, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write to express my support for the Havasupai Tribe's request for a major disaster declaration in response to the recent severe flooding on their reservation. The flooding, which resulted in one death, hundreds of evacuations, and extensive public damage, requires a whole-of-government response.

As you know, on August 22nd, severe flash flooding at Havasu Creek inundated Supai Village on the Havasupai reservation and required the rescue and evacuation of over one hundred tribal members and tourists. The tribe reported significant damage to bridges, homes, roads, campgrounds, and trails as well as challenges to emergency response due to limited trail access to the reservation. According to FEMA's own assessments after the flood, the resulting public damage was over \$930,000- and will likely be far higher when accounting for damages to public buildings, utilities, and water control facilities. The Tribe has declared a state of emergency and made it clear that they need extensive support and assistance with mitigation and clean-up efforts and to rebuild or repair damaged infrastructure.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§5121-5207, and implemented by 44 CFR §206.36, I ask that the Havasupai Tribe receive a major disaster declaration.

I appreciate your administration's quick response, as FEMA staff were on the ground in a matter of days to begin assessing the damage, and the National Park Service immediately assisted with search and rescue efforts. Further providing the resources unlocked through a major disaster declaration will be crucial in rebuilding homes, fortifying tribal resources, and ensuring the resilience of Havasupai communities after this devastating flood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
MEMBER OF CONGRESS