

For Immediate Release



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

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Greetings:

Last week as a committee member, I attended a Joint Legislative Governmental Operations Committee meeting. This committee was formed to help citizens of North Carolina when a catastrophe happens in the state.

Joyce Waddell



**Mecklenburg County
Legislative Breakfast**

Chairperson, Senator Joyce Waddell and members of the Mecklenburg Delegation discussed the county's legislative agenda at the county's legislative breakfast.

Hurricane Recovery

Hurricane Recovery Efforts in North Carolina Highlight Persistent Challenges and Funding Needs.

As North Carolina continues its long recovery from multiple devastating hurricanes, over 1,000 homes remain in need of repairs. Recent hearings have shed light on the hurdles faced in securing sufficient funding and efficiently managing recovery efforts across the state.

The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR), tasked with rebuilding efforts after Hurricanes Florence and Matthew, presented its case before the Hurricane Response and Recovery Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations. NCORR requested an additional \$217 million in state funds to complete outstanding recovery projects. This follows a prior request in November for \$264 million, of which only \$80 million has been approved, despite concerns from lawmakers regarding NCORR's management of funds and project timelines.

If additional funding is not secured, NCORR warned that drastic measures would need to be implemented by the end of February when their cash reserves are projected to be depleted. To maintain contractor infrastructure, NCORR indicated a need for \$20 to \$30 million in monthly allocations.

In addition to NCORR's testimony, the General Assembly also heard from GROW NC, the program overseeing Hurricane Helene recovery efforts in Western North Carolina. GROW NC leaders outlined their strategy to streamline recovery efforts, focusing on efficient use of resources and avoiding the complexities that have hindered previous recovery programs. They emphasized the importance of prioritizing projects due to limited funding and committed to providing biweekly progress updates to the legislature.

Legislators acknowledged the need to apply lessons learned from Eastern North Carolina's recovery to improve outcomes in the western part of the state. Proposals were discussed about allocating initial funds to expedite GROW NC's recovery initiatives.

I think it is important to continue to work towards ensuring all North Carolinians have their housing restored, no matter what happens. This committee has been tasked with that assurance. Considering the state of North Carolina has federal government assistance there is no reason we should not be able to meet most of the needs to make sure those who have been affected will get some assistance.

Democrats

Pictured on the left are the Democrat Legislators of the Senate and to the right are both Senate and House of Representatives members.



NC General Assembly

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