



March 20, 2026

Dear Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the board of directors and membership of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, we respectfully and urgently request your support in securing supplemental disaster funding for Florida specialty crop producers affected by the recent severe winter weather. The Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS) estimates agricultural losses may total \$3.1 billion or more, as evaluations continue. These impacts present ongoing challenges for producers and the stability of Florida's agriculture sector.

Florida's agricultural community is resilient, yet recovery from this widespread weather event will require time and resources. Many producers are still addressing the immediate aftermath, and federal assistance would greatly support their path to recovery.

We appreciate your longstanding support of the Florida fruit and vegetable industry. Your commitment has helped our producers navigate many challenges and continue providing Americans with fresh, domestically grown fruits and vegetables.

We urge you to advocate for and approve supplemental disaster funding as soon as possible. Timely federal assistance will help stabilize Florida's agricultural sector, support local economies, and ensure continued availability of fresh produce for consumers nationwide.

Upon federal approval, we respectfully request that appropriated funds be administered by the state of Florida through the existing Florida Block Grant Disaster Relief Program, which is well positioned to deliver aid efficiently to those most in need.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy for our industry. Your efforts make a meaningful difference for every grower and the communities they serve, and the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association stands ready to assist and facilitate in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven B. Callahan".

**Steven B. Callahan**

Chair  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

Executive VP & CEO  
Dundee Citrus Growers Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Joyner".

**Michael A. Joyner**

President  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association