

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3302

October 18, 2024

The Honorable Avril Haines  
Director  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
1500 Tysons McLean Drive  
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Director Haines:

We write to express our deep concern regarding the alarming spread of disinformation related to the recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene in our state of North Carolina and the potential for similar disinformation campaigns surrounding the aftermath of Hurricane Milton in Florida.

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, western North Carolina sustained significant loss of life and billions of dollars of damage to personal property and critical infrastructure. State and federal officials mounted a historic response effort, deploying FEMA and Department of Defense personnel and other resources to the disaster area to assist with critical life-saving missions, commodity distribution, and infrastructure repair and reconstruction. During this time, an unprecedented amount of disinformation related to assistance efforts began spreading online.

Specifically, we are concerned about potential involvement in propagating or amplifying this disinformation from foreign governments or malign influences, with the intent of undermining public trust in our institutions and hampering emergency response efforts. Given the significant impact that such disinformation can have on public safety, morale, and the overall effectiveness of recovery initiatives, it is critical to address these threats in a timely and transparent manner.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully request a briefing from your office on any intelligence assessments or findings related to these disinformation campaigns. Understanding the scope of these challenges and any foreign involvement would be invaluable as we work to ensure that accurate information reaches affected communities and that we can counter harmful narratives with effective measures.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response and the opportunity to discuss this further.

Very truly yours,



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel  
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress