From:	Riley Morningstar on behalf of Riley Morningstar <Riley.Morningstar@blueridge.coop>
To:	Riley Morningstar
Subject:	***FEDERAL, STATE OFFICIALS SURVEY DAMAGE, ONGOING RECOVERY EFFORTS***
Date:	Wednesday, October 2, 2024 1:34:39 PM
Attachments:	Timmons Field.jpeg Graham MSR.HEIC Biggs Field.JPG Graham encourage.MP4 Legis update RM 10 2.pdf Outlook-banwmbnk.png

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*****FEDERAL, STATE OFFICIALS SURVEY DAMAGE, ONGOING RECOVERY EFFORTS*****

PICKENS, South Carolina — Federal and state elected officials have visited with Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative workers in the field and operations center to assess the damage brought by Tropical Storm Helene.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, **U.S. Rep. William Timmons** (SC-04) and **Sheri Biggs** (SC-03 Republican nominee) visited pockets of our five-county service area today and Tuesday.

"Our cooperative is grateful to have elected representatives witness the historic damage we've discovered for themselves," **Senior Vice President of Government and Public Relations Grayson Kelly said**. "They encouraged all of our workers during this stressful time and reiterated their ongoing support of our current and future recovery efforts."

Attached are photos of their respective visits. As a reminder, the public can view our online outage map here: https://www.blueridge.coop/outage. An update on today's work will be released tonight.

QUOTABLES

"These people have been working night and day. I understand that if you don't have power, it's frustrating and that it's a devastating change in lifestyle. This storm is record-setting. There are no adjectives I can use to describe the scope of it. This is Hurricane Hugo for the Upstate. We got flattened up here, folks.

"I appreciate all the federal government is doing, and (South Carolina) Gov. (Henry) McMaster and his team has been awesome. Just be patient. The people who are trying to restore your power lost their power. They haven't seen their families, and they've been out there working 16-18 hours under very dangerous conditions. To the extent you can be patient, please do. The people trying to help you have suffered like you have. We'll get through it together." – **U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative member**

"Our utilities are facing an extremely difficult situation. Like many of you, I am still without power at my home. I want to thank the linemen and crews working around the clock to help get power back to as many people in the Upstate as quickly and as safely as possible. Crews

are here from several other states and even Canada to help get power back. …

"Thanks to Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative for allowing me to tag along with a crew working diligently to restore power to northern Greenville County. Their crews are working hard to rebuild after this catastrophic hurricane unlike we have seen here before. I know there are many folks in Greenville and Spartanburg without power — rest assured that hardworking people are working overtime to get it back. South Carolina, we will get through this." – **U.S. Rep. William Timmons (SC-04)**

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