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## Disaster Relief (Priority Issue)

### National

A group of mostly Republican senators, including Senator Tim Scott and Senator Lindsey Graham, have introduced a \$13.6 billion disaster aid package.

The 67-page bill, [S.572](#) (116), provides relief for states ravaged by hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes and other natural disasters last year - including \$3 billion for the Agriculture Department to help mitigate crop losses,

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## This Week at the Statehouse

### Legislative Update - Week 8

#### Issue: Hemp

The full Senate Agriculture took up [H. 3449](#) this week - The SC Department of Agriculture's plan to regulate hemp in South Carolina. With the passing of the 2018 Farm bill, hemp is now a recognized commodity under federal law and states are required to submit a plan to USDA for approval as to how they will regulate the crop. H. 3449 details how SCDA will move forward with a program that would open up the ability for more growers to grow hemp

without an acre limit. An amendment was offered and adopted that would allow the 40 selected growers of this year's pilot program to continue with their plans for their 40 acres regardless of what occurs with the USDA plan's approval process. The Senate Agriculture committee gave a favorable report on H. 3449 and it will be on the Senate Calendar next for consideration.

*SCFB supports the Department of Agriculture regulating hemp in South Carolina.*

**Issue: Tax Reform**

The House Tax Review Policy continues to meet to discuss comprehensive reform of the SC Tax code. They have discussed many different ideas but have not introduced any legislation as of yet. SCFB will send out additional information on this important issue as soon as possible.

**Priority Issue: Dams Safety Program**

GR Staff continue to educate members of the Senate of the importance in passing [S. 107 - The Dams & Safety Program Bill](#). It is important to contact your senator to tell them to support S. 107 because it is a common sense bill that improves safety within the dam safety program, concentrates DHEC's limited resources on our significant and high hazard dams, and provides much needed relief of the financial burden placed on dam owners facing repairs from reclassification due to encroaching urban sprawl into rural areas. Please contact your senator today to share this important message!

*(SN - GP) Dams and Reservoir. South Carolina Farm Bureau supports reasonable standards concerning the construction, inspection, maintenance, and repair of all high risk pond dams.*