

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

Dear President Obama:

We write to bring to your attention a letter from Governor Steve Beshear requesting a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as well as a possible follow-up request for Public Assistance pending the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments currently being performed. We respectfully urge you to give this request the timely and serious consideration that it deserves.

From July 11, 2015, through July 20, 2015, devastating storms and flooding again swept through the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As a result, multiple counties in Eastern Kentucky suffered extensive damage from the severe storms and flash flooding. Sadly, our communities also endured the loss of four lives over the course of this tragedy. The Governor has already issued a disaster declaration for these counties under state law and is now requesting federal assistance for the hardest hit counties of Rowan, Johnson, Carter, and Trimble.

Despite the extensive and valiant response, search and rescue efforts of a wide range of volunteer agencies, the damage caused by these storms far exceeds the capacity of the state and local government. Additionally, as the Governor noted, the counties being requested for federal assistance are confronting a number of significant economic challenges and the need among many of these citizens is great. Timely and full implementation of the Individuals and Households Assistance program, including the Crisis Counseling Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Case Management, Disaster Legal Services, and the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program, would provide much needed aid to the Kentucky communities so severely affected by this disaster.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention and consideration of this request. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,








