

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2010

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We respectfully request your immediate approval of Governor Steve Beshear's appeal for a federal disaster declaration in Pike County and what will likely be his subsequent and additional requests to possibly include Shelby, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Letcher, Lewis, Mason, and Rowan counties. These Kentucky counties have suffered widespread and severe damage as a result of devastating flash floods, mud and rock slides, and heavy, sustained rains beginning on July 17, 2010 and continuing.

Beginning over the weekend, Pike County was struck by severe flash floods and Shelby County experienced downed trees and power outages caused by heavy winds, as well as wide-spread flooding. Two fatalities in Pike County have been attributed to flooding and over 200 homes have reportedly been destroyed. At present, 2,400 residents remain without water and much of the county remains on boil water advisories. FEMA preliminary damage assessments teams have already acknowledged Pike County has reached federal thresholds and have been dispatched to Shelby County for similar assessments.

Beginning late Tuesday, additional storms in northern Kentucky have swollen rivers, washed out bridges, and have made roads impassible. Early estimates indicate that 50 to 60 homes in Carter County were affected by the floods, approximately 20 of which are destroyed. Eight roads are currently underwater in Fleming County. Approximately 400 Lewis County homes are currently without water.

As you know, this most recent set of storms follows your May 11, 2010 disaster declaration for the Commonwealth that affected over 60 counties, which have sustained substantial and widespread damage and where repair work is still just beginning. To date, over \$30 million in disaster aid has been allocated by FEMA to address housing, road repairs, and offer SBA disaster loans. This most recent and continuing barrage makes an immediate designation all the more important.

Therefore, we respectfully request your urgent attention to granting Public and Individual Assistance, as requested, and offer the Commonwealth of Kentucky full federal support.

Sincerely,


HAROLD ROGERS
Member of Congress


MITCH McCONNELL
United States Senator


JIM BUNNING
United States Senator


ED WHITFIELD
Member of Congress


GEOFF DAVIS
Member of Congress


BEN CHANDLER
Member of Congress


BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress


JOHN A. YARMUTH
Member of Congress

Cc: Mr. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Governor Steve Beshear, Kentucky