

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20500-0001

Dear President Biden,

We write to call your attention to the April 7, 2021 letter from Governor Andy Beshear requesting a major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Kentucky due to the torrential weather events and subsequent disastrous flooding that occurred from February 28, 2021 and continuing until March 1, 2021. We strongly support this request and ask for your timely consideration.

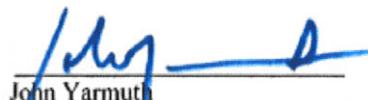
Heavy and sustained rain lashed Kentucky communities beginning on Sunday, February 28, 2021, leading to historic flooding, mudslides, sinkholes, road closures, and emergency water rescues. Some pockets of the Commonwealth received up to ten inches of rainfall within a few hours, which caused rivers and streams to surge. Approximately 2,100 homes were destroyed or heavily impacted, while many schools and small businesses endured significant damage as a result of the sustained flooding, displacing numerous families, business owners, and even residents of nursing homes. Many parts of Kentucky were also without clean drinking water for several days and thousands experienced extended power outages. Raised water levels put immense pressure on critical infrastructure, such as dams, temporarily endangering even more residents. As a result of the widespread damage, Governor Beshear declared a State of Emergency on March 1, 2021, in addition to many local declarations. The Kentucky National Guard was activated to provide support, along with at least four helicopters to assist with water rescues.

Previous snow and ice from storms (which you declared as a major disaster on March 31, 2021) occurred just before these flooding events, contributing to the severity of the flooding, as the snow melt saturated the soil. These recent and relentless severe weather events devastated the Commonwealth and its communities. For this reason, we urge you to also approve the requests for both public and individual assistance for those Kentuckians hit hardest by these weather disasters.

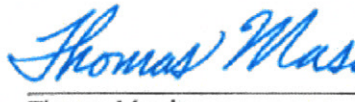
We appreciate your urgent consideration of this request, which will greatly assist Kentucky communities in a desperate time of need. Thank you in advance for your quick action in this matter.


Sincerely,

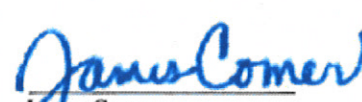

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