

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

June 2, 2011

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in strong support of the forthcoming Commonwealth of Massachusetts' application for a Presidential Disaster Declaration to assist homes and businesses that have been damaged by the devastating tornadoes across Central and Western Massachusetts that occurred this week.

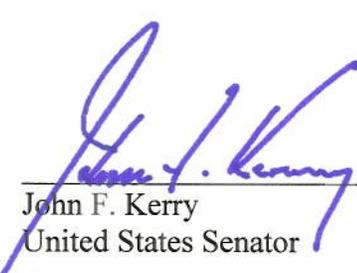
A series of tornadoes and strong thunderstorms hit Massachusetts with heavy rains, severe winds, and flash flooding, causing extreme damage to communities in Central and Western Massachusetts. The tornadoes and severe weather are responsible for four deaths and more than 200 injuries. There has been extensive property damage to homes, schools, and businesses, as well as widespread power outages in Central and Western Massachusetts.

In response to this disaster, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick declared a State of Emergency throughout Massachusetts and mobilized up to 1,000 troops from the National Guard to help with rescue efforts in at least 19 communities reporting serious damage.

As a result of these deadly storms, many small business owners face not only the cost of mitigating and repairing damage to their properties but also additional loss because their stores will remain closed until they are able to make necessary repairs or in some cases completely rebuild. In an economy that has already tested the resilience of these businesses, they are now in even more desperate need of disaster assistance and loans from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration.

Governor Patrick will be providing your Administration with all the required documentation and evidence required for a disaster declaration. We urge you to act as swiftly as possible to provide a disaster declaration for Massachusetts to help address this urgent situation in our state and mitigate the losses related to the tornadoes in Central and Western Massachusetts.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.



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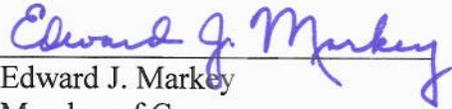
John F. Kerry  
United States Senator

Sincerely,

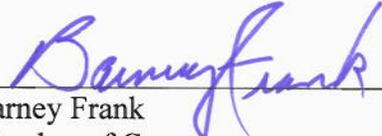


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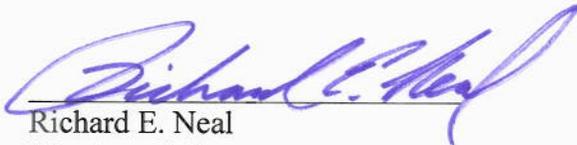
Scott P. Brown  
United States Senator



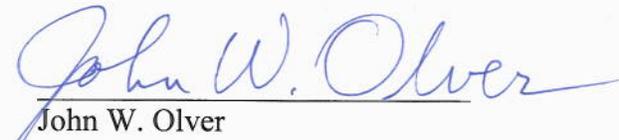
Edward J. Markey  
Member of Congress



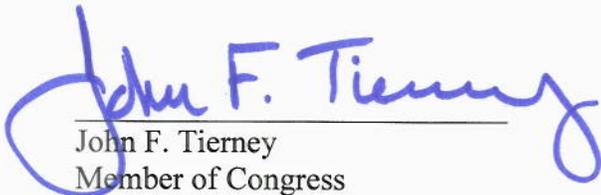
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress



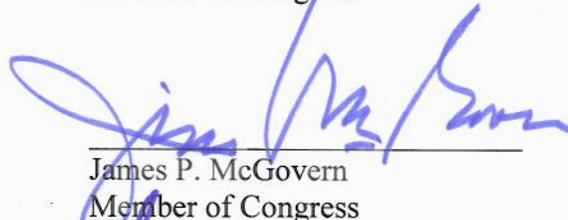
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



John W. Olver  
Member of Congress



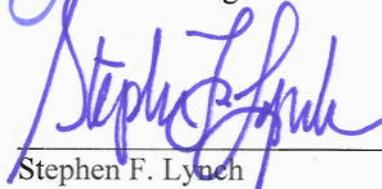
John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



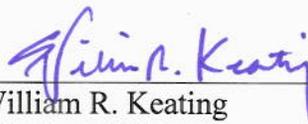
Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress