

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge swift approval of Governor Bill Lee's request for a major disaster declaration pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act due to severe weather that occurred on March 31, 2023.

On the evening of March 31, 2023, numerous severe thunderstorms and tornadoes moved across Tennessee, inflicting damage throughout the state. The isolated storms eventually formed a squall line in eastern Tennessee before the front moved out of the state. Power outages impacted over 102,000 homes and businesses throughout 66 counties as a result of the storms. Strong winds on April 1, 2023, exacerbated power outages and hampered response, restoration, and recovery operations. Just before 6:00 PM, a tornado passed through Covington, Tennessee, in Tipton County, causing devastating damage to the community. The tornado inflicted widespread damage to homes and businesses and brought down numerous electrical lines, leaving thousands of residents there without power. Tragically, the storms throughout Tennessee—including seven confirmed tornadoes—caused 15 fatalities and injured dozens more.

To respond to this disaster, Governor Lee is specifically requesting Public Assistance for Cannon, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Lewis, Macon, McNairy, Rutherford, Tipton, and Wayne Counties. Additionally, he is requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. Governor Lee's request is attached. On behalf of the State of Tennessee, we urge you to approve this request as soon as possible.

Our offices can provide you with any additional information you need.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



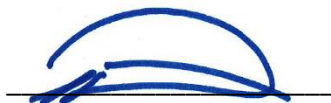
Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



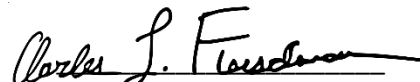
Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



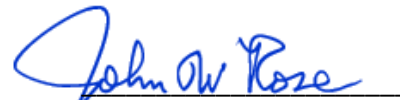
Mark Green, M.D.
Member of Congress




Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress