

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 12, 2015

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20472


Dear Administrator Fugate:

We write to urge the Federal Emergency Management Agency to work closely with Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to fully and expeditiously staff and support the Preliminary Damage Assessment process, and to swiftly approve our forthcoming request to President Obama for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance, including Snow Assistance. Currently, MEMA is documenting county snowfall totals, collecting storm costs, conducting site visits in areas that suffered damage to public infrastructure, and preparing a written request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

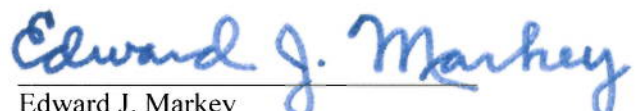
The severe winter snowstorm that impacted the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the last few weeks has resulted in historic snow accumulations, seawall damage, and substantial beach erosion. Total snowfall has exceeded 70 inches in many areas across the Commonwealth, and two of Boston's 10 largest snowstorms ever recorded have occurred in past few weeks. Thousands of our residents have experienced power outages due to strong winds and hundreds have spent time in emergency shelters. Further, most cities and towns have exhausted their snow budgets. Boston for example budgeted \$18 million for snow removal and have already expended over \$36 million.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) teams conducted a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment to determine the extent of infrastructure damage and amount of debris produced by this storm many communities throughout the Commonwealth incurred significant disaster response and recovery costs responding to the storms. Federal assistance is critically needed to help the Commonwealth repair public facilities and infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the snowfall, as well as to recoup the costs of snow removal and road treatment. Governor Baker will be providing your office with all the required documentation and evidence required for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. We respectfully urge your timely approval of this urgent application and we thank you in advance for your prompt consideration.

Sincerely,



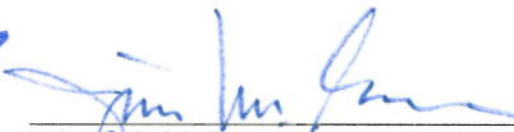
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator




Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



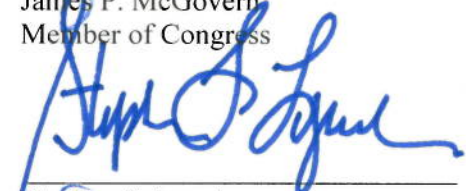
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



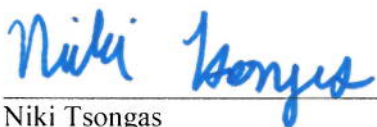
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



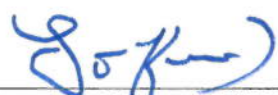
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



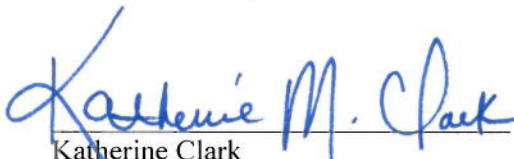
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



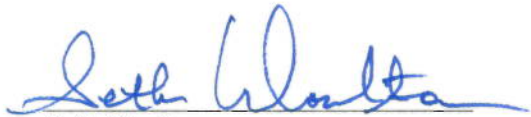
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress