

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 27, 2015

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge the approval of Massachusetts's request for a Major Disaster Declaration made following the severe winter weather pattern that impacted the Commonwealth starting on January 26, 2015. This unprecedented snowfall resulted in record-breaking accumulations, seawall damage, and substantial beach erosion.

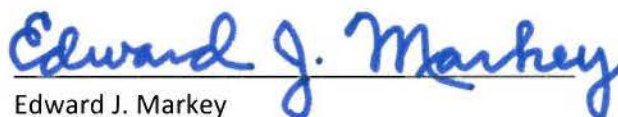
Snowfall during the preliminary blizzard exceeded 27 inches and set snowfall records in 7 counties, with 2 additional counties also meeting FEMA's criteria for receiving Snow Assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) teams conducted a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment to determine the extent of infrastructure damage and amount of debris produced by this storm. The preliminary damage assessment estimated that state and local damages in Massachusetts were over \$35 million, which far exceeds FEMA's disaster threshold benchmark of \$9.23 million. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency also conducted a broader initial damage assessment for the entire period of the persistent weather pattern and its unrelenting snow that estimated over \$390M in state and local costs for emergency protective measures, including snow removal, and damages that are eligible for reimbursement under the Public Assistance Program.

Many communities throughout the Commonwealth incurred significant disaster response and recovery costs responding to the initial blizzard and subsequent record breaking snowfall. Federal assistance is critically needed to help the Commonwealth repair public facilities and infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the storm, as well as to recoup the costs of snow removal and road treatment. We respectfully urge your timely approval of this request and we thank you in advance for your prompt consideration.

Sincerely,



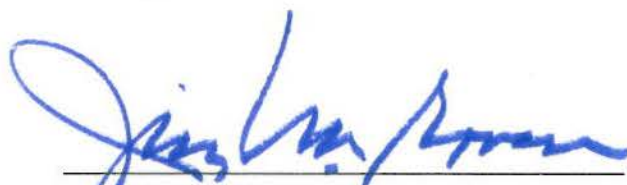
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



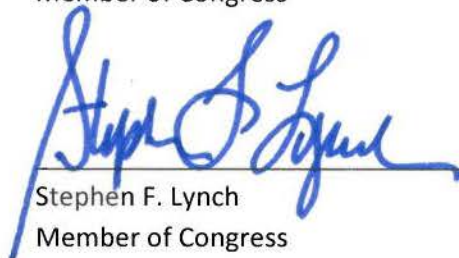
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



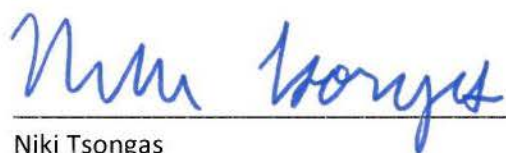
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



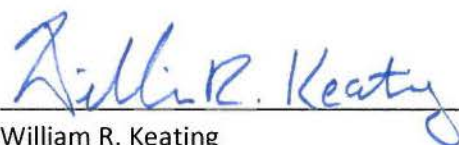
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



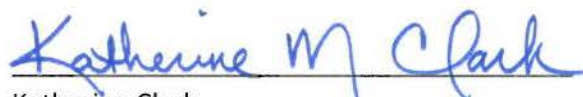
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



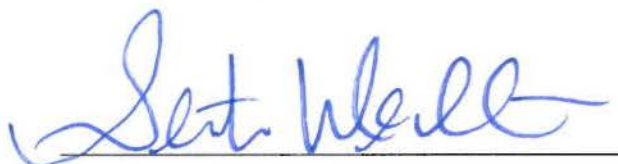
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress