

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 1, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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 the weekend of March 2, 2018.

On March 2-3, 2018, a Nor'easter struck the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with incredible wind gusts up to 97 mph, resulting in major historic flooding to homes and businesses along the coastline, widespread damage to trees, limbs, and utility company infrastructure, and prolonged power outages.¹ The preliminary damage assessment estimated that at least 2,113 homes in coastal communities were damaged by the storm, including at least 147 that were destroyed or suffered major damage.² In addition, nearly 450,000 customers were without power at the height of the storm, with power not being fully restored until the evening of March 6.³ As a result, twenty-seven long-term care facilities and several hospitals operated on backup generator power for up to seventy-two hours.⁴ Finally, high tides and powerful waves resulted in significant damage to public utilities and infrastructure, negatively impacting local tourism and recreational sites.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) teams conducted Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments in Plymouth, Norfolk, Nantucket, Essex, Barnstable and Bristol counties to determine the extent of infrastructure damage and amount of debris produced by this storm.⁵ The preliminary damage

¹ Angela Frtiz, "March 13 blizzard dumped as much as 2 feet of snow in eastern Massachusetts," Washington Post (March 14, 2018) (online at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2018/03/14/tuesdays-blizzard-dumped-as-much-as-2-feet-of-snow-in-eastern-massachusetts/?utm_term=.1db55e62c797); Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, "MEMA Reports: Volume 17, Issue 2" (April 18, 2018) (online at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/04/19/MEMA%20Reports%2017-2.pdf>)

² Letter from Governor Charles Baker to President Donald Trump on major disaster Public Assistance for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (April 30, 2018)

³ *Ibid*

⁴ *Ibid*

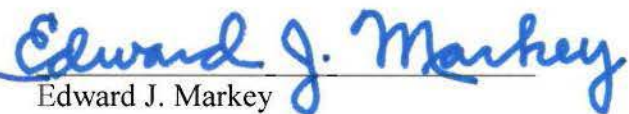
⁵ Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, "MEMA Reports: Volume 17, Issue 2" (April 18, 2018) (online at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/04/19/MEMA%20Reports%2017-2.pdf>)

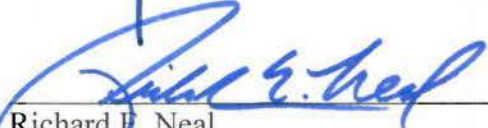
assessment estimated that state and local damages in Massachusetts were over \$23.8 million, which far exceeds FEMA's disaster threshold benchmark of \$9.23 million.⁶

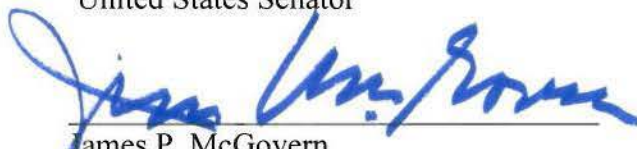
Many communities throughout the Commonwealth incurred significant disaster response and recovery costs responding to the initial blizzard and subsequent record breaking snowfall. Federal assistance is critically needed to help the Commonwealth repair public facilities and infrastructure damaged or destroyed 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.

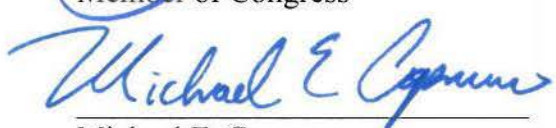
Sincerely,

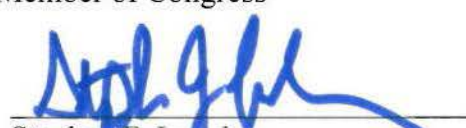

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

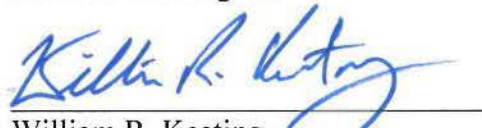

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

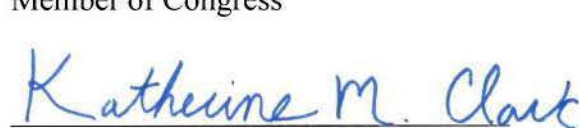

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress


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

⁶ Letter from Governor Charles Baker to President Donald Trump on major disaster Public Assistance for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (April 30, 2018)