

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in full support of the request you recently received from Governor Mitt Romney for disaster relief in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Commonwealth has requested that you declare an emergency for 10 of the 14 counties (Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288 and in accordance with Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 206.227. The winter snow storm, which hit the Commonwealth on January 22-23, 2005, has dumped near record snowfalls on the City of Boston and most areas of Massachusetts. Along with severe winds, extreme drifts, and coastal flooding, snow removal efforts have been costly and difficult. This storm event of historic proportion has caused undue financial hardship and devastated state and local resources. This storm contributed to set a Massachusetts record for the highest monthly snowfall in 113 years.

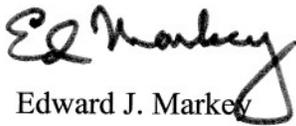
Beginning on Saturday January 22 and continuing through Sunday January 23, 2005, a severe winter storm/snow with blizzard conditions, damaging winds, bitterly cold temperatures, coastal flooding and extraordinary drifting of snow impacted the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This near-record snowfall has had detrimental effect on businesses, school districts, public and private transportation, and government operations. This storm grounded air traffic at Logan International Airport, caused 41,000 power outages, and closed hundreds of schools for multiple days. The National Weather Service reported snow drifts up to 7 feet in many communities. Sustained winds throughout the storm ranged from 25 mph to hurricane force wind gusts up to 83 mph.

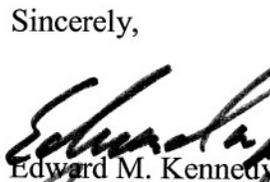
We understand that the Governor has taken action under state law to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan. On Saturday, January 22, 2005, Governor Romney declared a State of Emergency and more than 60 Massachusetts communities declared local states of emergency.

The State Emergency Management Team began to mobilize its full workforce on Saturday January 22, 2005 to deal with the response and recovery elements of the State's Emergency Plan. The following state and volunteer resources were committed to alleviate this emergency: the Executive Office of Public Safety, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Massachusetts Highway Department, Massachusetts National Guard, Massachusetts State Police, Coastal Zone Management, Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Law Enforcement, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Secretary of State's Office, Department of Mental Health, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, National Grid, Department of Fire Services, American Red Cross, RACES, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

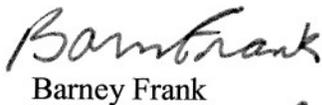
We ask that you declare a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to work with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to recover from this blizzard; and allocate the appropriate funds to assist the 10 affected counties in their public safety and health response.

Sincerely,

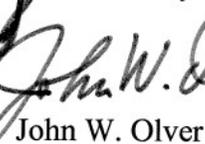
  
Edward J. Markey

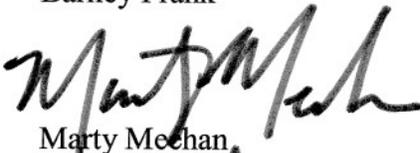
  
Edward M. Kennedy

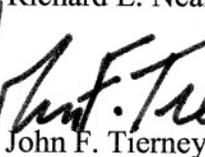
  
John F. Kerry

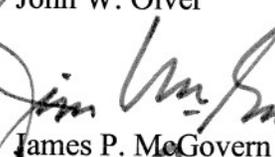
  
Barney Frank

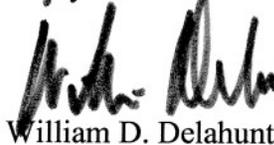
  
Richard E. Neal

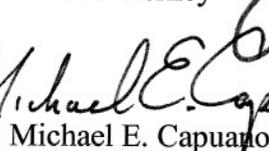
  
John W. Olver

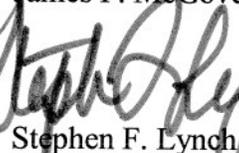
  
Marty Meehan

  
John F. Tierney

  
James P. McGovern

  
William D. Delahunt

  
Michael E. Capuano

  
Stephen F. Lynch

CC: Mr. Kenneth Horak  
Acting Regional Director  
FEMA, Region I  
99 High Street  
Boston, Mass. 02110