

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

March 17, 2010

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The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to request your urgent action for the imminent request of Governor Joe Manchin III, of West Virginia, to declare six counties in West Virginia as major disaster areas.

Governor Manchin declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2010. Region III of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has deployed a team to support a joint FEMA/State preliminary damage assessments, which are still being conducted.

The recent flooding has caused great hardship to the lives of many West Virginians. The damages caused on March 12, 2010, by high winds, heavy rains, snow melt, flooding and landslides are beyond the magnitude of the capabilities of the State and local governments to adequately repair damages alone. The impact of West Virginia solely funding the response and assistance to this disaster would certainly overwhelm the State's economic resources as well as its ability to provide disaster assistance to its citizens.

Supplementary federal assistance will be necessary at the earliest possible time in the form of Individual and Public Assistance, that is provided by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. This disaster funding will help residents, businesses, and local governments recover from this disaster and rebuild their lives. Many private residences and small businesses were heavily damaged, and regrettably, two citizens lost their lives as a result of this storm. Additionally, Governor Manchin, may be requesting additional forms of assistance and additional counties for the inclusion in this declaration.

Again, I therefore, respectfully, urge your immediate approval of the requested declaration so that our citizens, businesses, and communities can begin their recovery.

Thank you Mr. President, for your attention to this most important matter.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

Cc: Patricia Arcuri, Acting FEMA Regional Administrator