

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

July 18, 2012

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 Earl Ray Tomblin, of West Virginia, to declare forty-five counties as major disaster areas.

Governor Tomblin declared a State of Emergency on June 29, 2012, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. Governor Tomblin is requesting that the major disaster begin on June 29, 2012 and ending July 10, 2012. The State of West Virginia currently has an approved Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan that will expire on October 18, 2013.

The Governor is specifically requesting Public Assistance for the following forty-five counties: Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming. He is also requesting Hazard Mitigation statewide to all 55 counties.

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

The major disaster declaration for the State of West Virginia is a result of a line of severe storms with near hurricane force straight-line winds crossed the State on June 29-July 1, 2012. The derecho event created unprecedented damage across the State to the electrical and telecommunications infrastructure. Power outages occurred in all 55 counties of West Virginia during the four hours it took the storms to cross the State from west to east. Approximately 680,000 customers out of a total of approximately 1,000,000 lost electrical service as a result of the storms. The resulting chain of events adversely affected nearly every citizen of West Virginia.

The damages are beyond the magnitude of the capabilities of the State and local governments to adequately repair the 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.

STATE OFFICE:
405 CAPITOL STREET, SUITE 508
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
(304) 347-5372
FAX: (304) 347-5371

NORTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE:
118 ADAMS STREET, SUITE 301
FAIRMONT, WV 26554
(304) 367-0122
FAX: (304) 367-0822

SOUTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE:
220 NORTH KANAWHA STREET, SUITE 1
BECKLEY, WV 25801
(304) 253-9704
FAX: (304) 253-2578

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE:
217 WEST KING STREET, SUITE 307
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401
(304) 262-9285
FAX: (304) 262-9288

July 18, 2012
Page 2

Supplemental federal assistance will necessary at the earliest possible time in the form of Public Assistance, that is provided by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. This disaster funding will help local governments recover from this disaster and rebuild their lives. Additionally Governor Tomblin may be requesting additional forms of assistance and additional counties for the inclusion of this declaration.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", written in a cursive style.

John D. Rockefeller IV

CC: Ms. Mary Ann Tierney, FEMA Regional Administrator