

United States Senate

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ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. President:

I write to you today in support of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's request for a declaration of major disaster for the State of West Virginia in response to severe weather beginning March 15, 2012.

The counties of Lincoln, Logan and Mingo experienced significant damage due to severe storms, heavy rain, wind-driven rain, flooding, high winds, mudslides and landslides. The destruction from this storm affected both private and public property -- flooding homes and vehicles, while destroying buildings, roads and public and private bridges.

The severe storm of March 15 comes on the heels of a destructive weather system that plagued much of the same area less than one month ago. As a result of relentless rain coupled with saturated soil, local emergency resources are severely strained. Many residents of the counties affected by the storms are low-income and elderly. These residents are struggling to pull together every resource to rebuild, and they rightly deserve assistance from their government during their most vulnerable hour.

To access federal disaster aid, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin made a request for a declaration of major disaster for the State of West Virginia, submitted today under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5208 (Stafford Act). I respectfully request that you promptly review Governor Tomblin's request and provide it all appropriate consideration.

With warm regards,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

cc: Ms. MaryAnn Tierney
Regional Administrator
FEMA, Region III