

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Copy To: Administrator W. Craig Fugate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

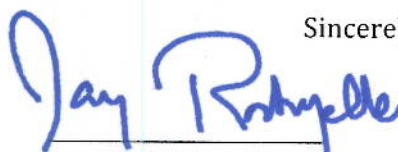
Dear President Obama:


We write in full support of the State of West Virginia's appeal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Category B Emergency Protective Measures, including direct funding assistance, in response to the devastating contamination of our State's water supply on January 9, 2014. With FEMA's denial of our State's earlier request for additional federal support, we ask that you broadly interpret the Stafford Act in considering our State's appeal and making available resources from the necessary agencies.

As the Governor stated in his initial request letter to FEMA on January 27th, the costs incurred in the immediate response to this disaster were enormous, and unfortunately, those costs continue to rise. The Governor provided a detailed outline of the estimated costs in yesterday's appeal. He also stated that the economic impact of this disaster is estimated at \$61 million, and further points out that it is likely to be greater. Combined with the costs incurred by state and local agencies, as well as volunteer organizations, our state is looking at a total impact of \$72 million or more from this widespread disaster.


We respectfully request that the Governor's appeal be granted, so that state and local agencies that incurred unprecedented costs can apply for reimbursement of eligible costs under the Public Assistance program. This unimaginable disaster rises to a level of severity and magnitude to warrant further federal assistance. We ask for your direct involvement to ensure that FEMA is able to help our citizens fully recover from this event of national and international significance. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this important matter.


Sincerely,


John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator


Joe Manchin III
United States Senator


Nick J. Rahall II
Member of Congress


Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress


David B. McKinley
Member of Congress