

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As members of Alabama's Congressional Delegation, we request that you increase the federal cost share for the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) program to 100% in response to the severe storms and tornadoes that impacted the State of Alabama on January 12th, 2023. We are grateful that you expeditiously declared a major disaster and directed federal aid to support local and state recovery efforts. The Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to reimburse at least 75% of the costs of disaster response under the PA program. However, the Stafford Act also authorizes you to increase the federal cost share when warranted. Due to the substantial and widespread devastation caused by the January 12th storm system, we strongly believe that an increase in the federal cost share is required to effectively respond to a disaster of this scale.

It could take weeks to fully assess the magnitude of devastation caused by the dozens of tornadoes that cut across our state. The damage to public and private property is extensive, and critical services may not be restored to many communities for weeks. Furthermore, our prayers are with the families of the seven Alabamians who lost their lives in this tragic storm.

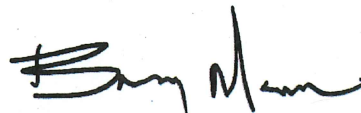
The physical devastation caused by this storm system has only compounded the existing challenges facing many of our counties and municipalities who are still recovering from damage caused by Hurricane Zeta and Hurricane Sally. Moreover, many of our first responders and healthcare systems were just beginning to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We fear that our state, counties, and municipalities simply do not have the resources to absorb the costs of yet another disaster response and recovery effort.

We applaud the actions taken by our local first responders, our county and state emergency management agencies, FEMA, and the White House. However, as we begin to rebuild and recover, it is clear that our communities need additional federal support. We stand ready to work with you to ensure the considerable resources of the federal government can be efficiently and effectively used to help our communities recover from this devastating storm. Thank you for your expedited consideration as we continue to work together to provide disaster assistance to the thousands of Alabamians impacted in recent days.

Sincerely,



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



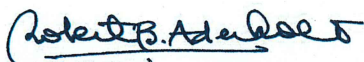
Barry Moore
Member of Congress



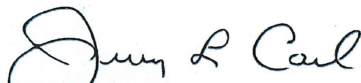
Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



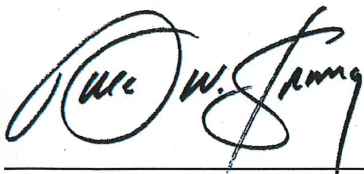
Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress



Gary J. Palmer
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Dale W. Strong
Member of Congress

Cc:

Governor Kay Ivey
FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell
FEMA Region 4 Administrator Gracia B. Szczech
Alabama EMA Director Jeff Smitherman