

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 11, 2015

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you in strong support of a formal appeal request, submitted by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker on May 7, 2015, that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) extend the designated 48-hour period of snow assistance to a 72-hour period of snow assistance for eligible applications.

As you are aware, this past winter, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts experienced unprecedented and disastrous weather with record-breaking snowfall and persistent cold temperatures. The combined conditions resulted in snowfall nearing nine feet in central and eastern parts of the state. Despite the Commonwealth's depth of experience in dealing with harsh conditions, the winter pattern brought the state to a standstill for days at a time.

In response to the storms, we thank you for issuing a major disaster declaration for the period of January 26 – 28, 2015, designating public assistance (PA) for the ten requested counties and 48-hour snowfall of snow assistance for the nine requested counties in Massachusetts.

We are disappointed that the declaration was narrower than requested. However, we were pleased that both Vice President Joe Biden and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate indicated that FEMA recognizes the extraordinary impacts that the Commonwealth suffered through during the four-week period and will be flexible in its eligibility determinations as it reviews costs of snow removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent work to damaged facilities.

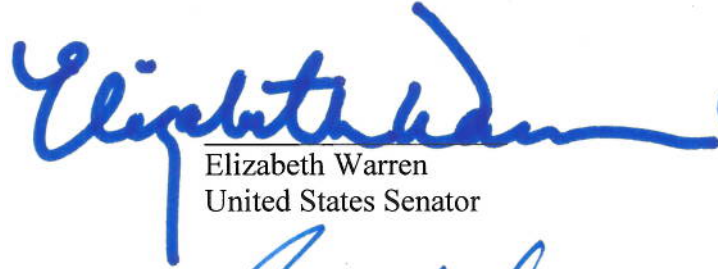
We ask you to extend the period of snow assistance from 48 hours to 72 hours in all counties currently deemed eligible for snow assistance. The current 48-hour period approved for snow assistance is not adequate, given the excessive costs incurred by the state and municipalities in nine counties in plowing, hauling, and disposing the crippling amounts of snow from the blizzard and subsequent storms. Governor Baker has estimated the total cost for snow removal operations to be approximately \$350 million, which not only emptied local snow removal budgets, but forced many cities and towns into deficit spending. These communities are currently struggling to manage this significant financial impact, and are being forced into a position of having to cut other critical services to make up these deficits.

Under these extraordinary circumstances, it is our understanding that FEMA has the authority to grant a 72-hour period of snow assistance.

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We respectfully urge your approval of the appeal by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and thank you in advance for your prompt consideration.

Sincerely,



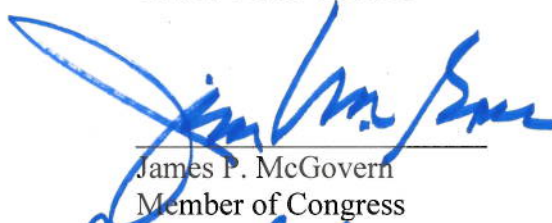
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



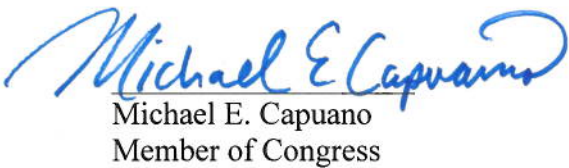
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



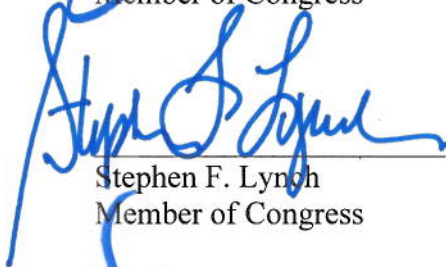
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



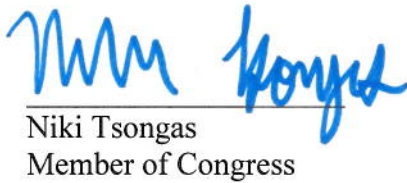
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress