

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2026

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Karen Evans, Senior Official Performing
the Duties of FEMA Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear President Trump and Acting Administrator Evans,

We write on behalf of the residents of Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket Counties in Massachusetts, who experienced historic snowfall in February 2026 during a severe winter storm. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, local communities—including Fall River, New Bedford, and many others—and our constituents suffered costly damage to infrastructure and incurred major expenses responding to the blizzard. In response, on April 9, 2026, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey submitted a request for assistance to the Trump administration for Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket Counties under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. We urge you to swiftly approve the Commonwealth's request for much-needed relief.

On February 23, 2026, communities across Massachusetts—and particularly in the southeastern part of the state—faced historic levels of snowfall, with more than 41 inches of snow reported in some areas.¹ Snow fell at a rate of 2 to 4 inches per hour for several consecutive hours, rapidly blanketing municipalities with unprecedented accumulations. Faced with the rapid onset of difficult conditions, several localities were forced to turn to the Commonwealth for additional resources. Massachusetts responded to more than 200 resources requests, deployed 350 Massachusetts National Guard members to support snow removal, and established a snow removal coordination field office in southeastern Massachusetts. On Cape Cod, the storm caused multiple emergency shelters and warming centers to reach capacity. On the South Coast, trees, power lines, and structures collapsed under the weight of historic snowfall. At the peak of the storm, over 290,000 power outages were reported statewide.


We are grateful to the first responders and local and state officials who worked tirelessly during the blizzard to clear snow, deliver essential resources, transport residents in need to shelters, and more. Their efforts undoubtedly saved lives. During and after the storm, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) also worked heroically to coordinate and respond to emergencies across the Commonwealth. As part of its response efforts, the agency conducted damage assessments in partnership with the impacted municipalities. Following those assessments, MEMA determined that the Commonwealth and Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties meet the required threshold for a Major Disaster Declaration, and four counties—Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth, and Barnstable—meet the record or near-record requirement for Snow Assistance. Accordingly, the Governor Healey has requested a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance, including Snow Assistance in the

¹ Louisa Moller, *Fall River, Massachusetts officials urge patience as city digs out from 41 inches of snow after blizzard*, CBS News (Feb 24, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/fall-river-massachusetts-blizzard-cleanup-plow-drivers/>.

four aforementioned counties and authorization of FEMA's post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program on a statewide basis.

In light of the profound impact to Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties, we respectfully urge the prompt issuance of a Major Disaster Declaration and assistance authorizations. Doing so will allow FEMA to provide critical Public Assistance, Snow Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation funding to the Commonwealth in a timely and efficient manner. On behalf of affected communities, we thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress


William R. Keating
Member of Congress


Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress


Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress