

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2006

Dear Governor Romney:

We're writing to express our support for the state's efforts to respond to the emergency in Massachusetts caused by the massive current flooding, and to offer our assistance in obtaining a federal disaster declaration.

Much of the eastern part of our state was under a flood warning for the Mother's Day weekend. The Merrimack River in Lowell, the Spicket River in Methuen, the Shawsheen River in Wilmington, the Nashua River in Pepperell, the Squannacook River in Groton, and the Assabet River in Maynard have already reached flood level, and the North Nashua River in Fitchburg, the Connecticut River in Northampton, the Sudbury River in Saxonville, the Aberjona River in Woburn and Winchester, and the Neponset River in Norwood are nearly at flood stage. Peabody, Melrose and other communities are being overwhelmed by heavy rain soaking the ground.

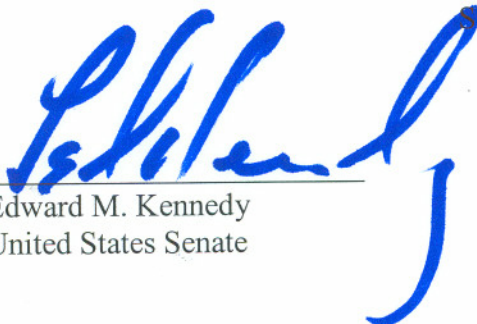
Homeowners and businesses are suffering significant losses from this flooding. Sewage backing up into basements, floodwaters washing out property, and emergency evacuations are putting heavy strain on local families, and tight municipal budgets face mounting emergency costs. A federal disaster declaration will help ease the economic losses that families will endure and enable municipal governments to recover without unnecessary fiscal crises.

With a federal disaster declaration, we'll be able to offer private citizens individual assistance, such as temporary housing, home repair, unemployment assistance and crisis counseling. The declaration will help affected communities repair flood-damaged schools, roads, hospitals, and municipal buildings, and reimburse much of the overtime costs affecting these communities.

We will strongly assist you in seeking a federal disaster declaration, and we look forward to working with you to help our communities recover from the storms and the resulting flood damage.

With respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate



John F. Kerry
United States Senate

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

John W. Olver
Member of Congress

Martin Meehan
Member of Congress

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

William Delahunt
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress