

JERRY F. COSTELLO

12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

costello.house.gov

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1312

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

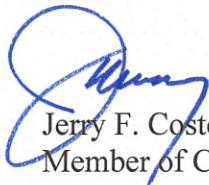
Dear President Obama:

I am writing in strong support of the State of Illinois' appeal of your denial of a federal disaster declaration for Gallatin, Randolph, Saline, Union and Williamson counties in Southern Illinois. These areas suffered tremendous damage and loss of life due to severe storms and tornadoes February 29 through March 2.

Since the denial, IEMA and FEMA personnel have been re-evaluating the damage and the economic impacts on the region. Additional structural damage has been found, and given the devastation in these communities I continue to believe that a federal disaster declaration is warranted, as it will greatly assist the residents and local governments of the region recover.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please let me know if I can provide additional information or be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,



Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress

JFC/dg