

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Through: George A. Robinson  
Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VI  
800 North Loop 288  
Denton, TX 76209-3698

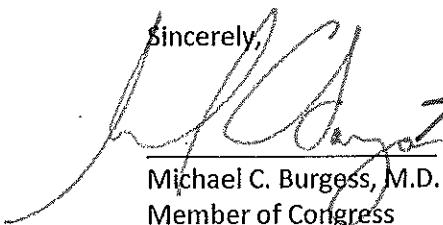
Dear Mr. President,

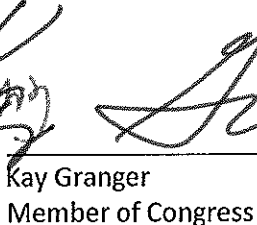
We are writing to you in support of Governor Rick Perry's January 17, 2014 request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration in conjunction with Texas' request for FEMA disaster assistance.

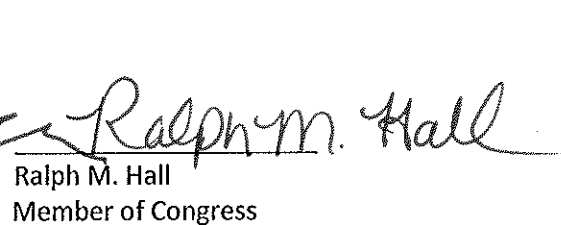
On December 5-9, 2013, the State of Texas, particularly the northeastern region of the state, experienced an ice storm that caused severe damage. This storm led numerous businesses, government offices, and school districts to close for days. It also caused broad travel delays on roadways, leaving many drivers stranded. Furthermore, hundreds of flights were cancelled at area airports, and thousands of residents experienced a loss of power for up to six days. Although state and local agencies worked around the clock for days to clean up roadways, side streets, and restore power, the cleanup efforts incurred significant expenses.

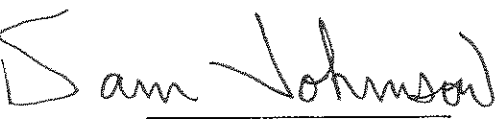
It is our understanding on February 11, 2014, FEMA denied major disaster declaration and based its determination at least partially on a damage estimate of \$29.7 million, far below the State's estimate of \$43.8 million and FEMA's assistance threshold of \$35 million. We ask that you reexamine the methodology used to determine the substantially lower FEMA estimate and reconsider the State of Texas' request for a major disaster declaration. Our state and local agencies worked diligently to deal with the effects of this unusual ice event; however, the total cost of damage from this historic snow and ice storm has exhausted the finances and stretched the capabilities of the affected local governments.


Sincerely,

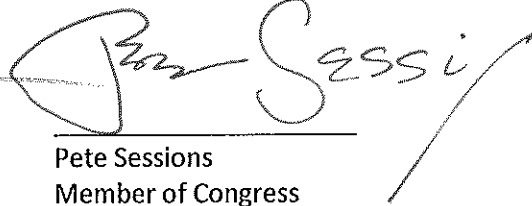
  
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Kay Granger  
Member of Congress

  
Ralph M. Hall  
Member of Congress

  
Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress

  
Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress