

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

February 2, 2016

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

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in support of Governor Asa Hutchinson's request for a major disaster declaration for the following counties in the State of Arkansas: Benton, Bradley, Boone, Calhoun, Carroll, Clay, Crawford, Dallas, Drew, Faulkner, Franklin, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson Little River, Independence, Izard, Lawrence, Little River, Lee, Logan, Madison, Marion, Mississippi, Montgomery, Ouachita, Perry, Pike, Polk, Randolph, Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, Sevier, Stone, Washington, White, Woodruff, and Yell Counties; and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

Since December 23, 2015 and through January 23, 2016, the State of Arkansas has experienced a continuing pattern of destructive storms, severe flooding, and tornadoes, resulting in 3 fatalities and severe damages to hundreds of homes across the state. As we see in many crises, people have come to the aid of their neighbors; however, the extent of the damage has surpassed the state government's ability to respond.

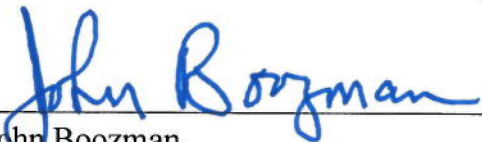
Pursuant to the provision of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, we ask that Arkansas receive a major disaster declaration for these counties due to the damages assessed. We urge the approval of Public Assistance (Categories A - G), Individual Assistance (IA), including the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), temporary housing which may include manufactured housing (mobile homes, park models, etc.), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Case Management, Disaster Legal Services, Crisis Counseling, Small Business Administration disaster loans, and Hazard Mitigation Statewide.


As you know, the State of Arkansas and our communities are working tirelessly to assist citizens and begin the process of cleaning up and ultimately rebuilding. Resources at the state and local level, including the Arkansas National Guard, Arkansas Forestry Commissions, and the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, are being fully utilized, but greater federal assistance is needed to help our communities recover. Arkansas is a predominantly rural state and this most recent series of disasters has exceeded the ability of our local governments to respond. The past several years have been particularly difficult for Arkansas residents due to numerous severe weather events. The State of Arkansas has endured 4 state disasters and 1 federally declared

disaster over the past 12 months. The Arkansas River has crested at higher levels than the previous crests during the Spring of 2015 which resulted in a Federal Declaration (FEMA 4226-DR-Arkansas). The assistance received as a result of this earlier federal disaster and emergency declaration has been vital, and many of the same communities are still in the recovery process from these earlier disasters. We hope that a similar response will follow this disaster.

Mr. President, we thank you for your attention to this matter and urge your swift consideration and approval of the state's request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.


Sincerely,


  
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John Boozman,  
U.S. Senator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Cotton,  
U.S. Senator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Crawford,  
Member of Congress

  
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French Hill,  
Member of Congress

  
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Steve Womack,  
Member of Congress

  
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Bruce Westerman,  
Member of Congress