COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

700 CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 100
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
FAX: (502) 564-2517

March 4, 2012

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20502-0001

Through: Mr. Major P. May
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

RE: Request for Disaster Declaration

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare an expedited major disaster for the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a result of severe storms, flooding, hurricane force winds, multiple tornadoes and widespread destruction beginning on February 29, 2012, and continuing.

To date, forty-eight (48) counties have been affected and sustained significant damages and are in need of assistance. The counties are: Allen, Barren, Bath, Bell, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Campbell, Carroll, Casey, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmondson, Gallatin, Grant, Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Johnson, Kenton, Larue, Laurel, Lawrence, Logan, Magoffin, Martin, McCracken, McLean, Menifee, Metcalf, Montgomery, Morgan, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Owen, Owsley, Pendleton, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Scott, Simpson, Trimble, Union and Warren.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on February 29, 2012, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. An Executive Order was issued for a State of Emergency for all of the affected counties within the Commonwealth.

On March 2, 2012, Kentucky verbally requested and FEMA Region IV verbally approved, joint Federal, State, and local surveys of the damaged areas. Local preliminary assessments indicated that there is massive destruction of residences and business with the entire city of West Liberty being destroyed. Homes, vehicles, infrastructures, public and private buildings, and businesses have been damaged and destroyed which will significantly impact all sectors. Debris associated with the tornadoes is massive and widespread. Twenty-one (21) people have lost their lives, and hundreds have sustained significant injury as a result of this storm event.

Based upon the known amount of damages, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am requesting a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance, Categories A-B at 100% FEMA share for the first fourteen (14) days. Further, I am requesting Categories C-G for all of the eligible counties within the forty-eight (48): Allen, Barren, Bath, Bell, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Campbell, Carroll, Casey, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmondson, Gallatin, Grant, Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Johnson, Kenton, Larue, Laurel, Lawrence, Logan, Magoffin, Martin, McCracken, McLean, Menifee, Metcalf, Montgomery, Morgan, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Owen, Owsley, Pendleton, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Scott, Simpson, Trimble, Union and Warren. In addition I am requesting Direct Federal Assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property.

I am also requesting a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance including the Individuals and Households Assistance Program (IHP), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Legal Services, Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program, Disaster Case Management, and Small Business Administration disaster loans for all of the eligible of these forty eight (48) counties: Allen, Barren, Bath, Bell, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Campbell, Carroll, Casey, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmondson, Gallatin, Grant, Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Johnson, Kenton, Larue, Laurel, Lawrence, Logan, Magoffin, Martin, McCracken, McLean, Menifee, Metcalf, Montgomery, Morgan, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Owen, Owsley, Pendleton, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Scott, Simpson, Trimble, Union and Warren. I am also requesting Hazard Mitigation for the entire state. The Commonwealth of Kentucky has an enhanced State Mitigation Plan which was approved on December 27, 2010.

The following information describes the nature and extent of state and local resources which have been implemented in an attempt to alleviate the damages of this disaster.

- The Kentucky Emergency Operations Center coordinated response, relief, and recovery activities among state agencies and private relief organizations for this emergency.
- The Local Emergency Operations Centers within affected counties were activated in support of shelters, road damages, and evacuations.
- Kentucky's Adjutant General authorized activation of the Kentucky Army National Guard in support of ongoing local emergency protective measures such as preliminary damage assessments, evacuation of people, transportation, and security.
- The Department of Transportation continues to provide resources to assist with clearing debris from roadways and executing emergency road repairs.
- The Kentucky State Police continues to provide security, traffic control, and support during road closures.
- The Department for Environmental Protection continues to assess the status of drinking water facilities.
- The volunteer organizations, including the Volunteer Agencies Active in Disasters (VOAD) and the American Red Cross, assisted with opening shelters in multiple counties and providing food, drinking water and other critical needs.

- The Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board activated its network of personnel to assist shelter managers and residents with crisis intervention and disaster behavioral health services due to stress and strain from this event.
- The Cabinet for Health and Family Services continues to provide emergency officials with guidance related to food safety and other public health issues related to flooding and power outages, and medical advice regarding health issues at shelters.
- Additional state agencies continue to address addressed injuries and monitored damages to affected facilities.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume the applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

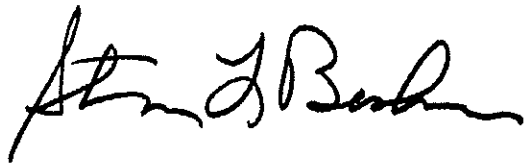
In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal and emergency transportation repairs, which pose an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the land owner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Furthermore, in accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the Commonwealth of Kentucky agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work;
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;
3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

I have designated John W. Heltzel as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work, on my behalf, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification.

Sincerely,



Steven L. Beshear