

United States Congress

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 25, 2014

Mr. Paul Ford
Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region One
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Acting Administrator Ford:

We write in full support of the State of Maine's February 21, 2014 request for assistance for all counties and municipalities of the State in the aftermath of a major ice storm and arctic temperatures beginning approximately December 21, 2013, through at least January 1, 2014.

This weather event required extraordinary measures to maintain transportation arteries and caused more than 200,000 power outages. The State had to implement emergency protective measures as the severe weather resulted in debris and damage to roads, public utilities and public facilities in these counties. The impact was especially severe in Maine's rural and economically challenged areas. As part of the Preliminary Damage Assessment, the State has already documented more than \$1.8 million in negative impact state-wide.

We would also note that this event was not just a snowstorm; it was an ice storm coupled with extreme cold. As a result, there were significant costs incurred for road treatment necessary to keep roads open and restore power. Consequently, we would strongly urge FEMA fully to consider the nature of the storm in determining eligible disaster costs.

We appreciate your prompt attention to Maine's request and respectfully request that you give it every appropriate consideration in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. The State of Maine has been through a particularly challenging period of weather, and we strongly support any assistance you can provide in helping Maine overcome this extreme weather event. Please keep us informed of the status of this request.

Sincerely,

Susan M Collins

August King

Michael W. Hildner

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