

March 9, 2001

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On February 20, I requested a major disaster declaration for three counties in Mississippi impacted by severe weather that ravaged these counties on February 16. On February 24 another round of severe weather impacted the state that eventually resulted in a total of fourteen counties being declared for public and individual assistance. Another twenty-one counties were declared eligible for individual assistance. Your quick response to my request for a declaration has expedited the recovery process.

The cost of recovery from this disaster continues to mount. The communities affected by the disaster are currently struggling to meet budget demands as a result of the slow growth in the economy that the state is experiencing. The cost of recovery from this disaster is placing both the state and local government in an undue financial burden. Many communities must decide between providing basic services and meeting the needs of the recovery costs resulting from the disaster.

I am requesting that you adjust the federal cost-share from the usual seventy-five percent (75%) to one hundred percent (100%). This adjustment will allow local governments and the state to meet the recovery costs associated with the disaster and continue to provide basic services to our citizens.

Your quick response to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

cc: Joe Allbaugh, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Robert Latham, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

RM/RL/mtb