

August 11, 2003

Mr. Michael C. Allen  
Director, Area 2 SBA  
Disaster Assistance  
Small Business Administration  
One Baltimore Place, Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Dear Mr. Allen:

I am requesting the Small Business Administration (SBA) conduct a Preliminary Damage Assessment in Lee County, Mississippi jointly with State and local officials as expeditiously as possible for the purpose of determining eligibility for SBA assistance.

A severe thunderstorm with torrential rain occurred August 6, 2003, causing widespread damage to homes and businesses in Lee County. On the same date, I declared a State of Emergency to allow the full use of State resources to assist the residents of the affected area. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, based on preliminary assessments conducted by state and local personnel indicates that Sixty-Eight (68) apartment dwellers in Lee County sustained major damage. An additional thirty-four (34) business sustained damage. It is expected that the uninsured loss of these structures will exceed forty percent.

Based on the information to be determined by this joint assessment, I am hereby requesting that Lee County be declared a disaster area by the SBA in accordance with 13 CFR, Part 123.22(A)(1), Subpart B. No other form of federal recovery assistance will be requested by the State.

Please contact Mr. Robert R. Latham, Jr., Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency at (601) 352-9100, if you need additional information regarding this request.

Sincerely,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/RRL