

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 29, 2026

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:


We respectfully urge approval of Governor Bill Lee's request for a major disaster declaration for the State of Tennessee due to severe ongoing winter weather beginning on January 22, 2026. We are grateful for your swift approval of the emergency declaration on January 24, 2026.


From January 23 through January 26, Tennessee experienced a multi-phase winter storm producing heavy snow, sleet, freezing rain, and high winds statewide. Snow totals reached up to 10 inches in northwest Tennessee with some counties reporting widespread ice accumulations of up to 1 inch. Prolonged sub-freezing temperatures have caused extensive damage to power, water, transportation, and communications infrastructure. At the height of the storm, approximately 365,000 Tennessee customers were without power, the highest total in the nation, with more than 100,000 customers without power for over three days and thousands remaining without power.

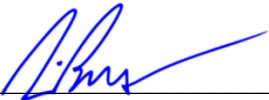
In response, Governor Bill Lee declared a State of Emergency on January 22, 2026, activated the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan, and elevated the State Emergency Operations Center to Level 3. State and local agencies, utilities, and volunteer organizations have conducted extensive life-safety operations, including sheltering, debris removal, emergency power and communications support, and transportation clearance. Despite these efforts, the scale and duration of this storm have exceeded the capabilities and resources of the state, resulting in over a dozen tragic fatalities and significant impacts to critical infrastructure.

On behalf of Tennessee, we respectfully urge approval of this major disaster declaration and activation of FEMA assistance as soon as possible. Our offices are prepared to provide any additional information you may need.

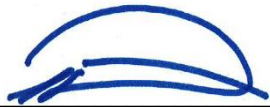
Sincerely,

  
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator

  
Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



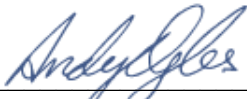
Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



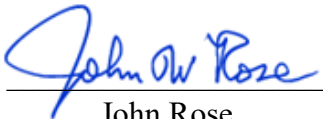
Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



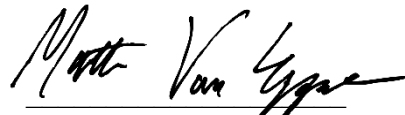
David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles  
Member of Congress



John Rose  
Member of Congress



Matt Van Epps  
Member of Congress