



SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO
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August 10, 2012

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
United States Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

I am writing in response to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's decision of August 9, 2012 to deny individual disaster assistance to residents of West Virginia in the wake of the June 29, 2012 derecho which impacted much of the Mid-Atlantic region. The State of West Virginia sought federal disaster assistance and President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the state on July 23, 2012.

The June 29, 2012 storms left over 680,000 West Virginians - nearly two-thirds of our residents - without power and caused significant property damage across the state. Thousands of trees were uprooted, causing damage to homes and other property. Many residents were without power for up to two weeks, complicating efforts to recover from the storm's impact. The State's application for individual assistance sought aid for uninsured property owners. Given the extent of the damage across West Virginia, it is difficult to see FEMA's rationale for denying assistance to individuals, even as the agency provides assistance for state and local government facilities in the same communities.

Governor Tomblin has indicated that the State of West Virginia will appeal FEMA's decision to deny individual assistance. When this appeal is filed, I urge you to carefully reexamine the extent of the damage sustained by many West Virginia residents and to allow those individuals to seek federal assistance.

In addition to considering the appeal, I request that you meet with me, West Virginia's Governor, and other members of our state's congressional delegation to provide an explanation for your decision to deny much needed assistance to West Virginia residents.

Sincerely,

Shelley Moore Capito, M.C.

cc: Secretary Janet Napolitano