Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 27, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in support of Governor Mike Beebe's appeal letter of FEMA's June 17, 2011 denial of a major disaster declaration for Franklin and Johnson Counties in Arkansas following the severe storms, flooding, and deadly tornadoes beginning on May 24, 2011. Governor Beebe requested Individual Assistance for Franklin and Johnson Counties. He is also requesting the inclusion of the Public Assistance grant program for all categories of work (Categories A-G) for Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson Counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson Counties have already been declared under FEMA 1975-DR-Arkansas, for the severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes beginning on April 14, 2011, and continuing through June 3, 2011. When the separate disasters began on May 24, 2011, all three counties again far exceeded their damage thresholds, receiving an estimated $4,670,875 in damages.

On June 23, 2011, Franklin and Johnson Counties began additional damage assessments which documented that of the 391 damaged homes, 27 percent were destroyed and 22 percent received major damages. Furthermore, 86 percent of the damaged homes were low-income residences and 69 percent of the owners did not have insurance. Franklin and Johnson Counties are rural communities lacking the necessary resources and financial assistance to recover from these storms. Twenty-five families, or about 60 people, are currently living in tents due to a lack of available housing or the financial ability to obtain housing.

Arkansas has been inundated with disasters in recent years and has received ten presidential major-disaster declarations since 2008. The state's eleventh major disaster, declared on May 2, 2011, designated 58 of Arkansas' 75 counties eligible for Federal assistance. Although the availability of Federal funds is assisting recovery, state and local governments are responsible for providing the non-Federal cost share. The frequency of these disasters has depleted the financial resources of local governments, the private sector, volunteer organizations, and the state's disaster-relief fund. Federal assistance is needed to help these communities recover.

We also support Governor Beebe in asking that his request be included with FEMA 1975-DR-Arkansas if it does not receive a major disaster declaration.

Mr. President, we respectfully request your swift consideration and approval of this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

U.S. Senator Mark Pryor

U.S. Senator John Boozman

U.S. Representative Rick Crawford

U.S. Representative Tim Griffin

U.S. Representative Steve Womack

U.S. Representative Mike Ross

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 27, 2011

The Honorable W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

We are writing in support of Governor Mike Beebe's appeal letter of FEMA's June 17, 2011 denial of a major disaster declaration for Franklin and Johnson Counties in Arkansas following the severe storms, flooding, and deadly tornadoes beginning on May 24, 2011. Governor Beebe requested Individual Assistance for Franklin and Johnson Counties. He is also requesting the inclusion of the Public Assistance grant program for all categories of work (Categories A-G) for Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson Counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson Counties have already been declared under FEMA 1975-DR-Arkansas, for the severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes beginning on April 14, 2011, and continuing through June 3, 2011. When the separate disasters began on May 24, 2011, all three counties again far exceeded their damage thresholds, receiving an estimated $4,670,875 in damages.

On June 23, 2011, Franklin and Johnson Counties began additional damage assessments which documented that of the 391 damaged homes, 27 percent were destroyed and 22 percent received major damages. Furthermore, 86 percent of the damaged homes were low-income residences and 69 percent of the owners did not have insurance. Franklin and Johnson Counties are rural communities lacking the necessary resources and financial assistance to recover from these storms. Twenty-five families, or about 60 people, are currently living in tents due to a lack of available housing or the financial ability to obtain housing.

Arkansas has been inundated with disasters in recent years and has received ten presidential major-disaster declarations since 2008. The state's eleventh major disaster, declared on May 2, 2011, designated 58 of Arkansas' 75 counties eligible for Federal assistance. Although the availability of Federal funds is assisting recovery, state and local governments are responsible for providing the non-Federal cost share. The frequency of these disasters has depleted the financial resources of local governments, the private sector, volunteer organizations,

and the state's disaster-relief fund. Federal assistance is needed to help these communities recover.

We also support Governor Beebe in asking that his request be included with FEMA 1975-DR-Arkansas if it does not receive a major disaster declaration.

Administrator Fugate, we respectfully request your swift consideration and approval of this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

U.S. Senator Mark Pryor

U.S. Senator John Boozman

U.S. Representative Rick Crawford

U.S. Representative Tim Griffin

U.S. Representative Steve Womack

U.S. Representative Mike Ross