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Congress of the United States
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IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Bill Lee
Governor of the State of Tennessee
600 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee,

I strongly urge you to request assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR 206.35, for the City of Memphis and Shelby County in response to the recent ice storm that hit our region on February 2, 2022. This ice storm left nearly 120,000 residents without power at the height of the storm, including tens of thousands whose power has still not been restored. It also resulted in hundreds of downed trees and powerlines that have affected residents and businesses throughout the county.

The preliminary damage estimate provided to the West Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) by Memphis, Light Gas and Water (MLGW) is \$13 million as of February 7, 2022.

FEMA administers various programs which could potentially provide relief. For example, the Public Assistance Grant Program could assist with debris removal, repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged and publicly owned facilities. The Individual Assistance and Household programs could assist with temporary residences (rental assistance) or repairs to make homes safe, sanitary and functional.

Since the amount of damage from this storm has already exceeded the minimum requirement, I believe a swift request of disaster assistance is prudent to ensure that our county can receive the necessary support to adequately address the damages that have been incurred.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress