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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

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IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

December 29, 2022

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

Dear Governor Lee,

As the dean of the Tennessee congressional delegation, 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 winter storm that hit our region starting on December 22, 2022. This winter storm caused record breaking damage and left thousands of residents without power at the height of the storm. It also resulted in the flooding of an entire college dormitory at Christian Brothers University.

As of December 29, 2022, the preliminary damage estimate provided to the West Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) by Memphis, Light Gas and Water (MLGW) is \$2.1 million. Christian Brothers University estimates its damages to be approximately \$1.5 million. In addition to these estimates that total \$3.6 million, there was significant damage to the Shelby County Health Department building that will most likely bring the total above the \$4.1 million threshold.

Since the amount of damage from this storm will likely exceed 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