STEVE COHEN 9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE 2268 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515

> TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265 FAX: (202) 225-5663

167 NORTH MAIN STREET SUITE 369 MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131 FAX: (901) 544-4329

WWW.COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-4209

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COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

January 6, 2023

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 am following up on my December 29, 2022 letter, to 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.

As of January 6, 2023, the Shelby County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency has confirmed that damages from the storm have exceeded the federal county threshold and is estimated to be \$4.2 million. Some of the damage estimates include \$2.1 million to Memphis, Light Gas and Water (MLGW), \$703,000 to the City of Germantown, \$518,150 to Shelby County Schools, \$459,491 to the City of Memphis, \$275,000 to Christian Brothers University, and \$50,000 to the University of Memphis.

Since the amount of damage from this storm has now 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,

Stere Cohen

Steve Cohen Member of Congress