

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

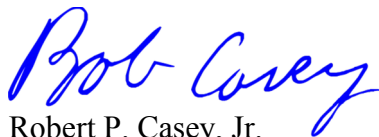
In August of 2024, remnants of Tropical Storm Debby moved across the Commonwealth, bringing severe storms and flooding to Pennsylvania. Multiple counties experienced damage as a result of the storm, and many Pennsylvanians are now experiencing hardship as they navigate the path toward recovery. Governor Josh Shapiro has authorized the use of state resources to support immediate recovery efforts and has requested that you authorize Individual Assistance to help eligible individuals and households impacted by the storms and flooding. We support Governor Shapiro's request and we ask for immediate action to provide federal aid to the Commonwealth.

To support recovery efforts in affected communities, Governor Shapiro issued a disaster declaration for 28 counties, authorizing \$5 million in state funding immediately available for initial response and authorizing state agencies to deploy additional resources and personnel. While these measures taken by Governor Shapiro will support immediate relief efforts, it is likely the Commonwealth will require additional resources to sufficiently address the damage and support the long-term recovery of impacted communities. Individual Assistance from the federal government is critical for helping households and individuals cover uninsured or underinsured expenses and needs as they recover from Tropical Storm Debby's damages. To expedite the Commonwealth's efforts to rebuild and move forward, we ask that you approve Governor Shapiro's request swiftly.

The Commonwealth is currently working on a joint preliminary damage assessment to better understand the scope of damages resulting from the August storms and flooding. However, we understand that it is already evident that multiple counties have been severely impacted, leaving many people displaced, particularly some of our most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. As the Commonwealth collects more information regarding the damages and needs of these communities, we ask that your administration provide the necessary support should the damage assessments make them eligible for additional assistance, particularly to assist with damage to core infrastructure.

To accelerate Pennsylvania's recovery, we urge you to approve Governor Shapiro's current major disaster declaration request and to work with the Commonwealth as officials collect more information on the damages and repair needs that have resulted from Tropical Storm Debby. Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



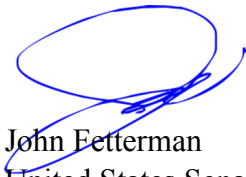
Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



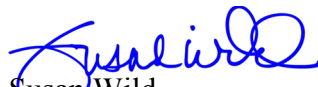
Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



John Fetterman  
United States Senator



Susan Wild  
Member of Congress