



KEVIN BRADY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DEPUTY WHIP

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

February 19, 2021

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

Dear President Biden,

As the top Republicans on the Ways and Means, Appropriations, and Foreign Affairs Committees, we write to you today to request the immediate review of Governor Abbott's Major Disaster Declaration request which—if approved—will ensure Texans get the help they need.

As you know, the State of Texas has experienced an unprecedented winter storm that has crippled the state's infrastructure and has left millions without basic needs. Currently, there are over 725 water systems under a boil water notice that affects 13 million people – nearly half of the state's population. At the height of this storm, millions of Texans throughout the state were stranded without electricity or heat and forced to take shelter from freezing, life-threatening temperatures.

Texas estimates that the overall damages from this winter storm total more than \$27 million and will only increase in the coming weeks. Additionally, many of our hospital systems and first responders—already dealing with challenges related to COVID-19—have lost power, water, and access to critical medical supplies.

We are thankful for the responsiveness of our emergency management teams across the state and greatly appreciate FEMA's partnership. A Major Disaster Declaration will allow for more federal dollars and critical resources to flow into our state. Specifically, this declaration will enable individuals to receive direct assistance and deliver long-term support to communities as they recover.

We respectfully request your quick consideration, approval, and execution of Governor Abbott's Major Disaster Declaration request.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress