

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 9, 2022

The Honorable Andy Beshear
Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear,

First, I want to express my thanks for your efforts on behalf of the people of eastern Kentucky as they recover from this devastating flood event.

During his visit to flood-ravaged areas of eastern Kentucky on August 8, 2022, President Biden announced that additional federal emergency aid provided to the Commonwealth would cover 100% of the cost associated with storm debris removal and emergency protective measures for a period of 30 days after the Major Disaster Declaration of July 29, 2022. I thank the President for enabling this aid to the people of eastern Kentucky, and for his Administration's swift action in response to this tragic flooding.

Notably, the President also indicated an openness to new ideas for assisting flood victims. In his remarks at your news briefing on response and recovery efforts held at Marie Roberts-Caney Elementary School in Lost Creek, Kentucky, President Biden stated, "I promise you, if it's legal, we'll do it, and if it's not legal, we'll figure out how to change the law."

In accordance with that sentiment, I request that you release unspent COVID-19 relief funds and issue waivers authorizing communities affected by major disasters to use those funds to repair and rebuild homes and businesses damaged within a federally-declared disaster area. Such waivers would not only immediately benefit flood victims in eastern Kentucky, they would also help those western Kentuckians who were impacted by last winter's tornado outbreak.

Again, thank you for your prompt consideration of this request, and for your continued efforts to help meet the immediate needs of Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth who have experienced such tremendous loss. I stand ready to lend my support and assistance.

Sincerely,



Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator