

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 9, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500-0001

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your August 8, 2022, visit to the flood-ravaged areas of eastern Kentucky, and for your Administration's swift action in response to Governor Andy Beshear's request for a major disaster declaration on July 29, 2022. Additionally, I want to thank you for approving the Governor's request that the federal government cover 100% of the costs associated with storm debris removal and emergency protective measures for a period of 30 days.

During your visit, in remarks at a news briefing on response and recovery efforts held at Marie Roberts-Caney Elementary School in Lost Creek, Kentucky, you mentioned that you were open to ideas on how to assist flood victims. Specifically, you 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 issue waivers authorizing the Commonwealth and communities affected by major disasters to use unspent COVID-19 relief 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, I thank you for your demonstrated and continued commitment to helping the victims of this tragic flood, and I am hopeful that we can work together to help meet the needs of Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth who have experienced such tremendous loss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rand Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator