Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, we write to express our support for Governor Bob McDonnell's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance for 47 counties and 15 independent cities across the Commonwealth of Virginia and statewide Hazard Mitigation as a result of the severe storms that occurred between June 29 and July 1, 2012.

The storm that took place on June 29-30, characterized as a derecho and bringing winds as high as 80-100 mph, and the heavy thunderstorms with high winds and hail that occurred on June 30 and July 1 caused the loss of 15 lives and significant disruptions and damage to communications and transportation systems, electrical utilities, and medical and health facilities. Dangerously high temperatures that persisted during and after the storms exacerbated the severe weather damage and widespread power outages—some of which lasted longer than seven days and left homes and businesses without power in addition to severely impacting agricultural operations and infrastructure. A State of Emergency Declaration remains in effect in the Commonwealth, with 47 jurisdictions having declared a local emergency.

We commend the many first responders and linemen, the localities, and the Commonwealth for their swift response to these emergencies and their ongoing recovery efforts. These communities are overwhelmed by the destruction caused by the storms and need supplemental federal assistance specifically for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent work. After conducting a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment, Governor McDonnell has requested statewide Hazard Mitigation and Public Assistance for the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Arlington, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buckingham, Campbell, Carroll, Charlotte, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Frederick, Giles, Greene, Halifax, Highland, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Nelson, New Kent, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Tazewell, and Warren and the cities of Bedford, Charlottesville, Covington, Danville, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Manassas Park, Martinsville, Radford, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton, and Winchester.

Pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, we respectfully request that you grant Governor McDonnell's request for public assistance and hazard mitigation for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Thank you for your expeditious consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Jim Webb
United States Senator

Robert Hurt
Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Eric I. Cantor
Member of Congress

Scott Rigell
Member of Congress

cc: Mr. W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Mrs. MaryAnn E. Tierney
Regional Administrator, Region III
Federal Emergency Management Agency