

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2013

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you in support of the Major Disaster Declaration (MDD) appeal for West, TX fertilizer plant explosion that was made on July 9, 2013.

We appreciate the effort made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to work with federal, state, and local officials to plan and execute a response that met the immediate needs of those most affected by this disaster. The tragic explosion in West injured hundreds, caused millions of dollars in damage, and took 15 lives, including the lives of 12 first responders.

It is our understanding that, as part of the state-federal coordination efforts, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) worked directly with FEMA to document under-insured and uninsured losses. As the appeal clearly outlines, the damages to public infrastructure in the City of West exceeded the federally-determined threshold required under the Stafford Act to issue a MDD.

We remain grateful for your visit to Waco, TX, particularly the commitment you made at the memorial service for the first responders of West, where you stated to the victims that “your country will remain ever ready to help you recover, and rebuild, and reclaim your community.”

The State’s appeal of your previous denial of a major disaster declaration represents a significant opportunity to support the process of rebuilding and recovery in the wake of this disaster, and we urge you to give this request every due consideration.

We look forward to working with you to follow through on this commitment and ensure the City of West and its citizens are given a chance to reclaim their community.

Sincerely,



John Cornyn
Member of Congress



Ted Cruz
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Flake

Beto O'Rourke

Hy Allan

~~Al Green~~
The Green

Samy Johnson

Ky Brown

Bob Carter TX 31

Lamar Smith

Jim Gray TX 36

Roger Manning TX 25

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Flake Farintoshoid

Mac 7L

Ralph M. Hall Sr 48

Randy K. Weber

K. Hall TX 4

Pete Olson TX 22

Ally TX 26

Paul S 25519 TX 32

John

Randy Neugebauer

Joe Barton

John Culberson

K. Montoy

Louis Lambert

Kevin Brady

Pete P. Hauling

Michael Karl

Job Herronling

David Lockman

Reuben Hingjosa

M. V. J.