

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 24, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write in full support of Maine Governor Janet Mills' request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the counties of Knox, Waldo, and York in the State of Maine as a result of damages from flash and tributary flooding between October 30 and 31, 2021. We ask that you fully grant the Governor's request for federal Public Assistance.

It is clear that Knox, Waldo, and York Counties experienced extensive flood damage between October 30 and 31, 2021. A rapidly developing area of low pressure tracked directly over these areas, leading to 4 to 6.5" of rainfall within a six-hour window. The heavy rain and excessive runoff led to widespread flooding in basements, extensive road washouts, and damage to public infrastructure. Resulting power outages extended to nearly 50,000 customers, necessitating the response by 510 line workers and 110 tree crews. The Maine Department of Transportation dispatched 25 crews that accumulated a total of 4,300 recovery hours to address damage to public roadways.

In early November, Maine requested a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for Public Assistance. On-site assessments were conducted in Biddeford, Rockport, Rockland, and Hope, Maine, and 20 PDAs were conducted virtually throughout November and December. The statewide PDA validated \$2,377,906 in public infrastructure damages, which the State estimates will rise as this number does not fully encompass damages in a number of small, rural towns across Maine.

The State has verified that all damaged infrastructure is not eligible for commercially available insurance coverage, placing these repair costs solely on the State and local municipalities if federal assistance is not secured. All participating counties and the State of Maine as a whole have successfully met their respective per capital thresholds. We appreciate the Federal Emergency Management Agency granting the State three extensions to request a Major Disaster Declaration, until February 28, 2022, which has enabled the State to assess the total damage and present a complete request to the United States Government.

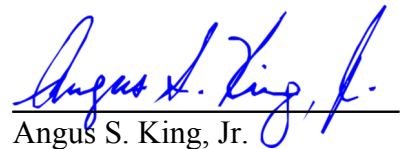
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We urge you to expeditiously approve the Governor's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for these three counties in Maine. The people of Maine are in great need of this federal assistance, and we thank you for your support.

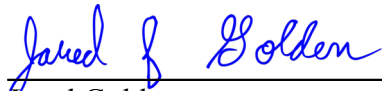
Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress