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OVERSIGHT AND
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2010

The Honorable Phil Bredesen
Governor of Tennessee
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor:

As Members of Congress representing areas of West and Middle Tennessee hardest hit by the weekend's storm and flooding, we want to thank you for all that you are doing, and encourage you to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by requesting a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA).

We understand the PDA is a preliminary step before your potential formal request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, and that such a formal request is typically made with the most complete assessment of the situation possible. If it is possible to ask for an "expedited" disaster declaration, as has been the case in previous severe floods, we encourage you to consider that route as well.

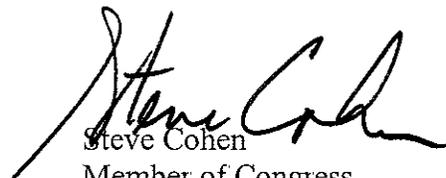
With perhaps dozens of area residents losing their lives and thousands displaced from their homes, we believe the flooding is extensive enough in the region to bring in a FEMA assessment team. Their assistance may be invaluable in gauging the scope of the damage and helping your determination of whether there is need for federal assistance to supplement the efforts of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and our local governments.

We greatly appreciate the superb response from TEMA and our local governments to such a sudden and destructive event. It is our hope that a joint PDA can further hasten recovery efforts in our region.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress