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October 13, 2010

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On September 6, 2010, Tropical Storm Hermine hit the State of Texas, ravaging numerous counties and doing millions of dollars of damage to both private and public property across dozens of counties. The storm resulted in numerous fatalities, injuries and the subsequent flooding that occurred has seriously impacted millions of people within the state, including many of my constituents.

On September 23, 2010, I sent a letter supporting Gov. Perry's request for federal Stafford Act funds to assist in the cleanup from the aftermath of Tropical Storm Hermine. Tarrant and Denton Counties, two counties in my congressional district, were hit especially hard by this storm, and were included in the governor's disaster declaration. I further signed a delegation letter to the president on September 29, 2010, supporting the same request.

On October 8, 2010, you denied Gov. Perry's request for a federal disaster declaration, stating that the "damage from this event was not of such severity and magnitude as to be beyond the capabilities of the state." On October 12, 2010, Gov. Perry appealed this decision, including updated cost estimates of the damage done to both public and private property, including health and public safety facilities. It is critical that not just the damage to my constituent counties, but the aggregate damage to state of Texas must be considered

I believe Gov. Perry's appeal, with its updated cost estimates, warrants a reversal of your original denial. Tropical Storm Hermine has done significant damage within the state of Texas, warranting federal assistance. I sincerely hope that your office will carefully review the governor's updated figures and agree with his conclusion that a federal disaster declaration is warranted. I firmly support Gov. Perry's request, and hope for an expeditious resolution of this matter. Should you need any further information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

Cc: Administrator W. Craig Fugate, FEMA
Regional Administrator Tony Russell, FEMA Region VI