

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 2010

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

Dear President Obama:

As Americans were gathering together to celebrate Labor Day, the State of Texas was experiencing a much different situation. Tropical Storm Hermine entered Texas early in the week of September 6<sup>th</sup> and left a trail of wreckage that spanned the central portion of the state. Local authorities and state officials took immediate action to limit the physical damage and personal property loss. However, these resources can only be stretched so far. We, the Members of Congress whose Congressional Districts were affected by this natural disaster, are writing today in support of Governor Rick Perry's September 20<sup>th</sup> request for a major disaster declaration for the thirteen impacted counties.

As you know, Tropical Storm Hermine caused eight deaths, widespread flooding leading to more than 100 high water rescues, over a hundred residences were destroyed and thousands of citizens were without water and electricity. The significant rainfall led to several instances of flash flooding leaving many roads and bridges with moderate to severe damage; currently three bridges and numerous roads are inaccessible. Complete estimates of the damage are still being assessed, but at this time, total expenditures are expected to exceed \$2.9 million.

Governor Perry's request outlines the havoc caused by Hermine with great detail and lists the response measures taken by state and local entities. It is our hope that the federal government can lend its support to help the families and communities of Texas recover. We ask that you act quickly to approve Governor Perry's request, so as not to further endanger the public health and safety of these Americans.

Sincerely,

