

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 11, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge swift approval of Governor Bill Lee's request for a major disaster declaration pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act due to severe weather occurring on August 22, 2026.

On August 22, a severe bow-echo thunderstorm moved through the Mid-South and into West Tennessee, producing widespread damaging straight-line winds. Severe weather, including prolific straight-line winds and hail, caused significant damage to the power grid, particularly in Shelby County. The National Weather Service [reported](#) that approximately 130,000 customers were without power, in addition to extensive tree damage, downed power lines, and road closures. Peak wind speeds were estimated between 60 and 80 miles per hour, with the storm lasting approximately 45 minutes in Shelby County and 90 minutes across the entire affected area. Ongoing extreme heat following the storm also posed serious risks to vulnerable residents, including seniors, young children, people with disabilities, low-income households, and those without access to cooling.

To respond to this disaster, Governor Lee is specifically requesting a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for Shelby County and Hazard Mitigation statewide. The State is also requesting direct Federal assistance for debris management support, including technical monitoring and mentoring to affected areas. On behalf of the State of Tennessee, we urge you to approve this request as soon as possible.

Our offices can provide you with any additional information you need.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



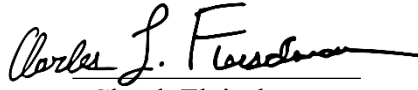
Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



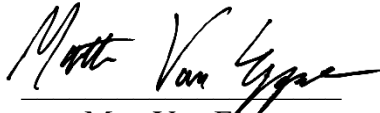
Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Matt Van Epps
Member of Congress