

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 4, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500-0001

Dear President Biden,

We write to draw your attention to the January 3, 2022, letter from Governor Andy Beshear requesting a 60-day extension for the ongoing 100% reimbursement to Kentucky for costs associated with storm debris removal and emergency protective measures after the December 10, 2021, severe storms and tornadoes. We strongly support this request and ask for your timely consideration.

During your visit to the storm-ravaged city of Mayfield, Kentucky, on December 15, 2021, you announced that additional federal emergency aid provided to the Commonwealth would cover 100% of the cost associated with storm debris removal and emergency protective measures for a period of 30-days after the Major Disaster Declaration on December 12, 2021.

State and local officials have expressed concern to us that the current 30-day period may not be sufficient in length for the scope of debris removal. The storm traveled some 250 miles across at least 8 states, and the need for debris removal services is profound in each and every community along the entire path of destruction. Debris removal has been complicated by the impacts of the holiday season, including two federally observed holidays.

As you know, Kentucky has also experienced several storms since those in early December, including a severe storm that swept across the state on January 1, 2022, impacting at least 31 counties and further complicating debris removal. Some of the same counties impacted by the December 10, 2021, tornadoes now face new debris and power outages after being struck by tornadoes, torrential rain and wind, and flash flooding. These state and local officials continue to be concerned that debris removal crews may not be available to remove the vast amount of debris within the thirty-day window.

Again, we thank you for your commitment to helping survivors recover from this catastrophic and tragic event. We appreciate your timely consideration of this request, so that state and local officials in western Kentucky and throughout the affected area can continue in the recovery process.

Sincerely,



Mitch McConnell
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Rand Paul
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Hal Rogers
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


John Yarmuth
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Brett Guthrie
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Thomas Massie
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Andy Barr
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


James Comer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS