

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.
36TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

BORDER SECURITY CAUCUS
CO-CHAIRMAN

SPACE FORCE CAUCUS
CO-CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

2236 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1555

203 IVY AVENUE, SUITE 600
DEER PARK, TX 77536
(832) 780-0966

769 S. MAIN STREET
LUMBERTON, TX 77657
(409) 883-8075

100 W. BLUFF DRIVE
WOODVILLE, TX 75979
(409) 331-8066

2004 N. CLEVELAND ST
DAYTON, TX 77535
(832) 780-0966

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express my support for Governor Greg Abbott's request for a major disaster declaration in response to the severe storms and tornadoes that occurred in Southeast Texas on January 24, 2023. These storms ripped through the region, bringing hail, furious winds, and tornadoes, resulting in extreme damage to Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, and Orange Counties. Governor Abbott has determined that federal assistance is warranted and necessary for recovery efforts across Southeast Texas and formally submitted the request on February 7, 2023.

On January 23, 2023, in response to the enhanced risk of severe weather, the State warned citizens along the path of danger and prepared response teams. On the morning of January 24, 2023, as a cold front moved south across Texas, massive thunderstorms led to high winds, forming tornados that touched down in Houston, Pasadena, Deer Park, and Baytown. Homes were flooded, buildings were toppled, schools were damaged, and businesses were destroyed.

Preliminary FEMA data estimates the cost of damages exceeds \$4.2 million. While Southeast Texans are veterans of catastrophic storms and far too familiar with the hard work it takes to rebuild, without federal assistance, more than 600 Texans will be left to secure recovery funds on their own. Further, each impacted county has a median household income below the national average, making recovery for these families even more challenging.

My constituents live, work, and raise their families in the affected counties. The destruction and pain that weather events can leave behind is nothing new to these people, and far too many have been burdened in the past by other natural disasters. Those affected are hardworking people, contributing to the Texas and American economies every single day – and while Southeast Texans are a tough group of people, they now ask for your assistance.

Thank you for considering Governor Abbott's request to begin alleviating the pain felt by these good people. Many Texans are counting on you, and I look forward to your swift response.

Sincerely,



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress