



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

March 22, 2011

Mr. William Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

Recently, it was brought to our attention that Governor Deval Patrick's request for federal emergency assistance through the Snow Assistance Disaster Program was denied for Worcester County due to the region's failure to meet record or near-record snowfall totals during the severe Nor'easter of January 12, 2011. In light of this, we are writing to express our deep concern with this outcome and would respectfully request reconsideration of Worcester County for federal snow and ice assistance, and any other available aid, to mitigate the cost imposed on municipalities as a result of the of this winter's unique storm impact.

As you know, this past winter, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts received, in aggregate, an unprecedented amount of snow and ice accumulation. On January 12th alone, according to National Weather Service data, Worcester County was within 10 percent of near record accumulation totals from the amounts received during any other winter event on record. Comparatively speaking, the accumulation of snow received was in excess of Suffolk and Norfolk Counties, both of which were approved for federal assistance for storm-related costs.

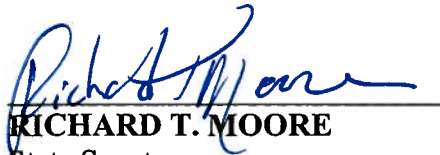
The combination of this and other severe winter storms forced cities and towns across Worcester County to engage in accelerated snow and ice removal operations, more frequently than during the average winter. Furthermore, many municipal roads and facilities were severely damaged due to stressed roofs and strained roads. As a result, municipalities assumed the high costs of capital repair combined with the already-high snow and ice removal costs.

Presented with these unanticipated liabilities, in addition to already strained budgets associated with the staggering economy, municipalities across Worcester County now face serious fiscal constraints. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency does not possess any

discretionary funding to assist in relieving this economic burden. Consequently, emergency assistance through the Snow Assistance Disaster Program is vital in assisting cities and towns to cope with this before serious cuts are made.


Cognizant of the unprecedented nature of the winter weather experienced in Worcester County, juxtaposed with the already existing economic burden placed on municipalities, we would respectfully request your assistance in reassessing its eligibility for federal Snow and Ice Removal Emergency Assistance, or any related emergency funding, associated with the Nor'easter of January 12th.


Respectfully,



RICHARD T. MOORE
State Senator
Worcester & Norfolk District



JOHN J. BINICOLA
State Representative
17th Worcester District



JENNIFER L. FLANAGAN
State Senator
Worcester & Middlesex District



JOHN V. FERNANDES
State Representative
10th Worcester District


HARRIETTE L. CHANDLER
State Senator
1st Worcester District

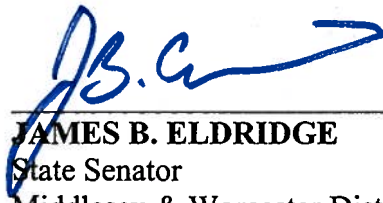

KATE HOGAN
State Representative
3rd Middlesex District


STEPHEN M. BREWER
State Senator
Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire
& Franklin District

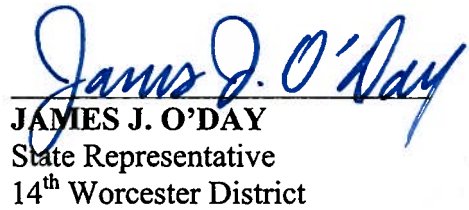

STEVEN L. LEVY
State Representative
4th Middlesex District


MICHAEL O. MOORE
State Senator
2nd Worcester District

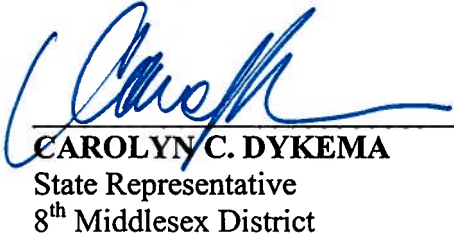

JOHN P. FRESOLO
State Representative
16th Worcester District



JAMES B. ELDRIDGE
State Senator
Middlesex & Worcester District



JAMES J. O'DAY
State Representative
14th Worcester District



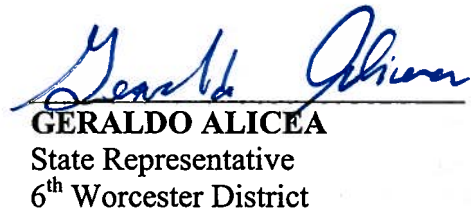
CAROLYN C. DYKEMA
State Representative
8th Middlesex District



JENNIFER E. BENSON
State Representative
37th Middlesex District



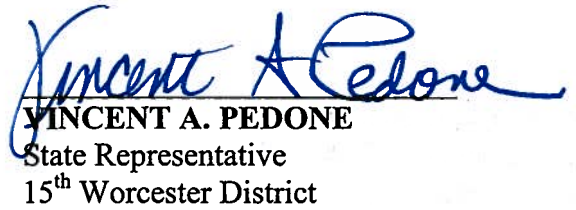
GEORGE N. PETERSON, JR.
State Representative
9th Worcester District



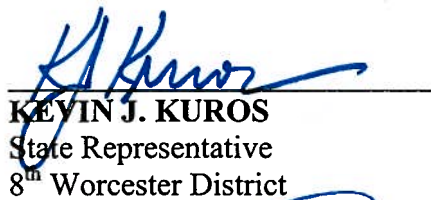
GERALDO ALICEA
State Representative
6th Worcester District



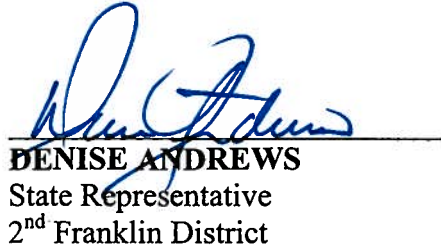
TODD M. SMOLA
State Representative
1st Hampden District



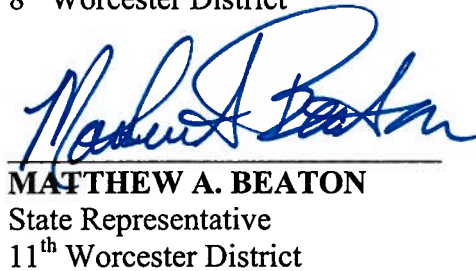
VINCENT A. PEDONE
State Representative
15th Worcester District



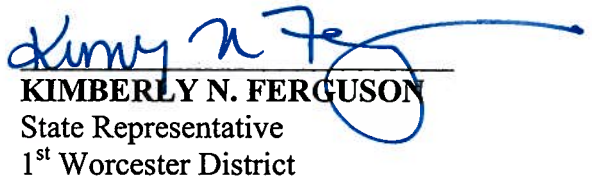
KEVIN J. KUROS
State Representative
8th Worcester District



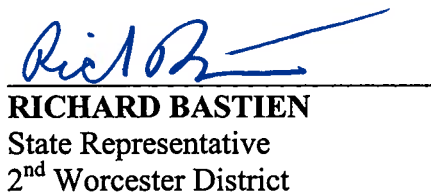
DENISE ANDREWS
State Representative
2nd Franklin District



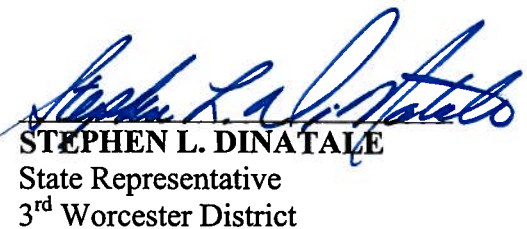
MATTHEW A. BEATON
State Representative
11th Worcester District



KIMBERLY N. FERGUSON
State Representative
1st Worcester District



RICHARD BASTIEN
State Representative
2nd Worcester District



STEPHEN L. DINATALE
State Representative
3rd Worcester District



RYAN C. FATTMAN
State Representative
18th Worcester District

CC: Senator John F. Kerry
Senator Scott P. Brown
Congressman Richard E. Neal
Congressman James P. McGovern
Secretary Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Undersecretary Kurt N. Schwartz, Acting Director of MEMA