



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410

February 28, 1978

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Stuart E. Eizenstat  
Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Affairs and Policy

SUBJECT: Telegrams to the President from Members of the  
Massachusetts Congressional Delegation Regarding  
Federal Disaster Assistance

This responds to your request for information relating to the subject matter of three telegrams to the President from members of the Massachusetts Delegation.

The February 10 telegram urges favorable action on Governor Dukakis's request for a Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State. As you know, President Carter, on February 10, did determine that the damage in certain areas of Massachusetts resulting from coastal flooding beginning about February 6 was of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974.

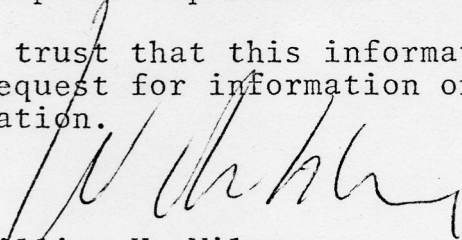
One of the two telegrams dated February 13 asked the President to expand the scope of his February 10 major disaster declaration to cover damage from ice and snow. On February 14, President Carter amended his declaration as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of Massachusetts resulting from high winds, tidal surge, and coastal flooding beginning about February 6, 1978, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under Public Law 93-288. I have further determined that the damage resulting from snow and ice, beginning about February 6, 1978, in the eight counties previously designated as eligible for Federal assistance by the Administrator of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration is sufficient to warrant implementation of those programs of Federal agencies that provide assistance to individuals only, as authorized by Public Law 93-288. I therefore declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of Massachusetts.

2.

The other February 13 telegram asked the President to act affirmatively on Governor Dukakis's request that Middlesex and Worcester Counties be added to the list of counties eligible for assistance under the major disaster declaration. As you know, I have been delegated the authority to designate areas within a State which qualify for Federal assistance following the President's declaration of a major disaster. I denied the Governor's request for designation of the two counties under the major disaster declaration because storm victims in those counties already are eligible for casualty loss tax relief from the Internal Revenue Service; the Farmers Home Administration's emergency loan program was triggered by the emergency declaration of February 7; and the contiguous county feature of the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program makes Middlesex and Worcester Counties eligible for long-term, low-interest rate loans. Also, snow removal assistance was made available under the emergency declaration. Further, no evidence has been submitted to indicate that public sector damage in the two counties is beyond the effective response capabilities of the State and local governments.

I trust that this information satisfactorily responds to your request for information on behalf of the Massachusetts Delegation.



William H. Wilcox  
Administrator