

CARDIN, MIKULSKI PRAISE PRESIDENT FOR ISSUING MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION FOR MARYLAND'S FEBRUARY BLIZZARDS

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators **Benjamin L. Cardin** and **Barbara A. Mikulski** (both D-MD) today praised President Obama for acting quickly in issuing a major Disaster Declaration for Maryland that will trigger the release of federal funds to help communities recover from the severe winter snowstorms that occurred from February 5-11, 2010.

On April 14, Team Maryland sent a letter to President Barack Obama requesting that Maryland be granted a major Disaster Declaration following the severe snowstorms that hit the state in February. In addition to **Senators Mikulski** and **Cardin**, the letter also was signed by Congressmen **Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.)**, **Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.)**, **Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.)**, **C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.)**, **Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.)**, **John Sarbanes (D-Md.)**, **Donna F. Edwards (D-Md.)** and **Frank Kratovil (D-Md.)**.

The declaration enables Maryland to receive reimbursement from the federal government for the resources already used as a result of the storms. At the request of Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, the President granted a similar declaration after two snowstorms in December.

"Maryland took all the appropriate steps to keep our citizens safe during the historic blizzards of February 2010," said **Senator Cardin**. "I am pleased that the President has recognized the unprecedented severity of the storms and has approved our State's request for supplemental federal assistance. Our communities are still struggling with the costs associated with the storms and this will certainly be welcomed news."

"These storms have been a white-out for state and local budgets," **Senator Mikulski** said. "The President's declaration will help ensure that this snow disaster doesn't turn into a budget disaster for Maryland. This winter has been an unusually tremendous hardship on our state, causing already strained state budgets and resources to be further stretched in order to respond to successive, large snow storms."

The Disaster Declaration means that federal funding will be available to the State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storms and snowstorms in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Saint Mary's, Talbot, Washington, and Wicomico Counties and the Independent City of Baltimore.

In addition, assistance will be available to the State and eligible local governments on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures, including snow assistance, for a continuous 48-hour period during or proximate to the incident period in Allegany, Anne

Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Saint Mary's, Washington, and Wicomico counties and Baltimore City, and for a continuous 72-hour period during or proximate to the incident period in Cecil, Howard, Kent, and Talbot counties.

Federal funding will also be available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

As a result of the snowstorms, Maryland was in a state of emergency from February 5, 2010 to March 7, 2010 and the Maryland National Guard was called into service. It is estimated Maryland has spent more than \$70 million responding to the February storms.

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