

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2006

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Last night devastating tornados swept through several West Tennessee communities. In Dyer and Gibson counties at least 23 individuals lost their lives. Many others lost their homes and livelihoods. State and local officials currently are assessing the damage. Many of the affected communities are in rural areas and it could take some time before the full extent of the damage is realized.

In anticipation of Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen's request for federal disaster assistance, we respectfully urge you to act as expeditiously as possible and approve Tennessee's request for federal assistance. It is our understanding that there is significant damage in many areas of West Tennessee, and local emergency responders and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) are working to provide assistance to survivors. They will soon begin the process of assessing the damage to affected communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our request on behalf of Tennesseans suffering from these devastating and unforeseen events. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



William H. Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator

cc: R. David Paulison, Acting Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Fire Administrator