

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

For multiple days, Americans across the South and the Midwest have endured historical snowfall and cold temperatures, for which infrastructure was woefully unprepared. Electricity, natural gas, and propane providers experienced unprecedented demand, forcing them to ration resources during the bitter temperatures. Millions of households spent days without any means by which to heat their homes, prepare and preserve food, and some even lost access to water. These conditions were not unique to any income level, ethnicity, family situation, or employment status. However, as you know, Americans in lower socioeconomic brackets feel the effects of such events, like this one and the COVID-19 pandemic, much deeper than anyone else.

We share your goal in wanting to send targeted resources to the people most afflicted by the pandemic, and hope you share our desire to do the same for the families experiencing more distress due to this unprecedented weather event. Next month, people, including small business owners, from Texas to Alabama will receive utility bills with exorbitant dues brought on by the immediate necessity to prevent significant loss. Likewise, utility companies forced to manage the complex grid and resource demand will surely experience financial hardship. Agricultural producers' livestock and fields have been damaged, assuring another difficult year. All of these circumstances together most certainly will result in higher energy and food prices for *all* Americans, further declining the economic progress made last year.

We urge you to immediately prioritize any congressionally authorized direct assistance to our constituents who are suffering grave loss and will continue to experience hardship as they recover from this traumatic event. This should include individuals, utility providers, farmers and ranchers, and others other have been and will be hit financially due to an emergency completely out of their control. We strongly urge you to consider immediately distributing assistance to households with at least one unemployed adult, with a household income cap of \$75,000, and households that rely on fixed incomes, like our senior citizens. These funds will help our vulnerable constituents cover the expected increased expenses. We also strongly urge you to consider prioritizing emergency relief for affected small business owners and to grant the assistance much more quickly and efficient than is common procedure for the Federal

Emergency Management Agency. Time is of the essence as expenses are incurring and bills will be coming due in a matter of weeks.

We stand ready to work with you to communicate with and quickly move assistance to our friends back home.

Sincerely,



Rick Crawford
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Tom Cole
MEMBER OF CONGRESS