

TOM MARINO

10TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3810

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

410 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3731

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

1020 COMMERCE PARK DRIVE, SUITE 1A
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
(570) 322-3961

181 WEST TIOGA STREET, SUITE 2
TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657
(570) 836-8020

106 ARCH STREET
SUNBURY, PA 17801
(570) 988-7801

June 24, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you today to express our support for the major disaster declaration request made by Governor Tom Corbett on June 22, 2011 for the counties of Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Tioga, and Wyoming in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As a result of severe thunderstorms and heavy rains throughout the month of April, these counties located in our districts have suffered severe flooding and widespread damage.

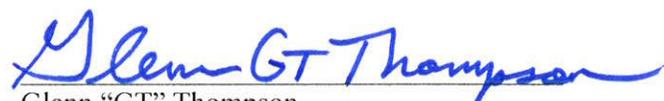
The Governor rightly stated in his letters that the high costs associated with the emergency response by the Commonwealth and local communities has "depleted resources and exhausted budgets." A May 20, 2011 assessment of the budget impact showed that the five counties sustained nearly \$20 million in damages, and the five counties exceeded their county and state per capita public assistance thresholds.

We have seen firsthand the effect these storms have had on the communities in the five counties. Roads and bridges remain closed or heavily damaged, jeopardizing the response and access of emergency services. Local budgets are strained even as the costs continue to increase; rural farms have suffered heavy damage and significant crop losses; and a number of buildings have been destroyed or condemned. As the damaging effects of the heavy storms and flooding continue to mount, it is clear that federal assistance is critical to public health and safety and to ensure that the region is adequately prepared for any future disasters.

The request by Governor Corbett is an important step in what will be a long recovery for our local communities. We urge you to accept the request made by the Government and make the major disaster declaration for Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Tioga, and Wyoming counties so that they may have federal resources available to them during the recovery period. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,


Tom Marino
Member of Congress


Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress