

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2006

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

El Paso County, Texas, was recently declared a state disaster area due to extensive flooding that occurred in late July and early August. As you consider FEMA's preliminary damage assessments, we urge your prompt consideration of a federal disaster declaration so that resources can be directed to the El Paso region as soon as possible.

Many of the outlying communities devastated by the flooding are unincorporated areas and *colonias* with extremely limited resources, and over a quarter of the population in El Paso County already lives below the poverty level. Therefore, we request that both Public Assistance and Individual Assistance be provided to the residents of El Paso who were impacted by this natural disaster so they may have the resources necessary to help them recover.

We greatly appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your favorable response for a joint federal disaster declaration for El Paso County, Texas.

Sincerely,



Kay Bailey Hutchison



John Cornyn



Silvestre Reyes

cc: R. David Paulison, Director/Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management