

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Pete T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

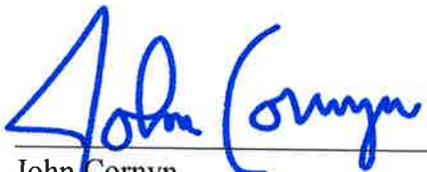
On March 31, 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied Texas' request for a Major Disaster Declaration resulting from the severe storms, straight-line winds, and tornadoes impacting Dallas and Erath counties on October 20-21, 2019.

The EF-3 tornado that ripped through the Dallas area caused catastrophic damage. Joint federal, state, and local preliminary damage assessments were completed after the event with FEMA certifying \$18,611,222 in damages. However, local jurisdictions identified over \$120 million in damages. One of the highlights in the disparity between these two amounts is the costs related to damages suffered by schools in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD).

Three DISD schools received over \$66 million in damages. DISD, the City of Dallas, the state, and FEMA worked for months to review paperwork including complex insurance documentation. New data provided on April 23, by DISD, identified an additional \$27,080,228 in uninsured damages. This amount when added to the FEMA certified figure of \$18,611,222 brings the uninsured damages from this severe weather to \$45,691,450, far surpassing the FEMA threshold for Public Assistance in Texas of \$38,472,708.

Texas continues to recover from over 14 major disasters in addition to the ongoing response to COVID-19. Recovery resources are stretched to a breaking point, and federal assistance is desperately needed for this event. We urge you to quickly review and approve the appeal submitted by Governor Greg Abbott, declaring a Major Disaster Declaration for both Dallas and Erath counties.

Sincerely,



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Van Taylor
Member of Congress

K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress