STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

November 7, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20202

Through: Edward Buikema
Regional Director
FEMA Region V
563 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605-1521

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, set forth in 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act) and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Indiana as a result of a tornado, severe thunderstorms, and extremely high winds that occurred in the early morning hours of November 6, 2005 and that have led to the largest number of storm-related fatalities in Indiana in over thirty years.

These severe storms have thus far resulted in 22 deaths, 17 in Vanderburgh County and 5 in Warrick County. Local hospitals are treating over 200 victims. State and local officials have identified severe damage to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure, such as roads and electric power lines, in the affected areas. At least one hundred homes and businesses have been severely damaged in Warrick County, and over one hundred manufactured housing units were destroyed in Vanderburgh County. Tremendous amounts of debris have also been generated by these storms.

I am requesting assistance at this time for the core counties of Vanderburgh and Warrick and the contiguous counties of Dubois, Gibson, Pike, Posey and Spencer. I reserve the right to request assistance for additional counties as substantiating documentation is received and damage assessments are conducted.

In response to the situation, and in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act, the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was executed on November 6, 2005. Under Indiana Code § 10-14-3-12, I declared a State of Disaster Emergency on November 7, 2005 for the entire State of Indiana (Attachment A).

On November 6, I also requested federal, state and local damage surveys of the disaster areas. These damage surveys are continuing as of this writing. After personally touring the areas with the most significant damage and speaking with those who were directly affected, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that supplemental federal assistance is necessary.

I am specifically requesting the implementation of Individual Assistance Programs including Disaster Housing, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Individual and Household Programs, and Other Needs Assistance, as well as Small Business Administration disaster loans. I am reserving the right to request the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Programs until such time as additional counties can be surveyed to determine whether the extent of damage and quantities of debris warrant such a request.

State and local governments continue to conduct search and rescue efforts using all available resources, including personnel from Indiana Task Force One, which I mobilized and deployed at the request of local officials. State and local transportation departments are clearing debris from roadways.

Municipal and cooperative electric utilities are clearing debris and repairing electric power lines and conduits. State and local police agencies are assisting with search and rescue, traffic control and securing damaged areas.

All available Emergency Medical Services, as well as the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's EMS coordination team, are fully engaged. The Military Department of Indiana has deployed 120 troops to the area to assist local responders.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security activated its state Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") on November 6, 2005 at 0500 and continues to provide assistance as needed to local officials. State personnel have assisted local emergency management officials in supervising recovery operations since the earliest hours of the response.

The Fire and Building Safety Division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security continues to provide technical assistance, investigative services, and support personnel for emergency field operations, and it is monitoring fire operations throughout the affected areas.

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and the Indiana Energy Group are monitoring outages and have kept the EOC advised of the severity of outages as well as estimated times within which power may be restored.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is providing overall direction and command on the state's behalf, continuously monitoring the situation, surveying stricken areas, coordinating requests from cities, towns and counties and regularly communicating with federal agencies including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Indiana Volunteers Active in Disasters (INVOAD) are coordinating volunteer resources and have maintained constant communication with shelters and the damage assessment operations of local volunteer agencies.

I certify that for this major disaster, the state and local governments will assume the applicable non-federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

I have designated J. Eric Dietz, Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on the state's behalf.

On behalf of the State of Indiana, I request the federal government's resources and assistance in responding to this devastating and historic storm. The people of Indiana will benefit greatly from the federal government's active involvement and partnership with the state in providing a coordinated response at this time of need.

Sincerely,

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.

Attachment A