

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 15, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-73, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available \$250 million for the disaster relief program of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

These funds would allow DHS to continue providing assistance for disasters in several States, including the recovery of the Columbia space shuttle and the damaging winter storms on the East Coast. These funds also would be available for ongoing response to prior disasters and to ensure that DHS has resources on hand to provide timely response to future disasters.

I designate these funds made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the attached letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dennis Hastert", written over a light blue horizontal line.

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosure



THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

April 14, 2003

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available previously appropriated contingent emergency funds for the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (EP&R) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These funds were made contingent upon your submission of a budget request to the Congress that includes designation of the amount requested as an emergency requirement.

Title III of P.L. 107-73, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, provided \$1.5 billion in contingent emergency appropriations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief program, which is now part of DHS. To date, \$1.0 billion of these funds have been made available. Your approval of this request would make available \$0.25 billion of the remaining \$0.5 billion for disaster relief for any previously declared disasters, including the recovery of the Columbia space shuttle and the damaging winter storms on the East Coast. The funds also would be available for ongoing response to prior disasters and to ensure that EP&R has resources on hand to provide timely response to future disasters.

I recommend that you designate this request for \$0.25 billion as an emergency requirement in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of DHS in recommending that you make the requested funds available by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M E Daniels Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Mitchell E. Daniels Jr.

Enclosure

**EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED  
MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PRESIDENT**

Department of Homeland Security

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

Disaster Relief.....\$250,000,000

Title III of P.L. 107-73, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriation Act, 2002, provided \$1.5 billion in emergency funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the amount requested as an emergency requirement. (FEMA's disaster relief program is now part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).)

The President recently declared disasters in Texas and Louisiana in response to the Columbia space shuttle, as well as in many Eastern States due to severe winter storms. DHS has been working with State and local authorities to provide assistance to the affected areas. This request would make available \$0.25 billion of contingent emergency funding for disaster relief activities associated with these recent disasters, as well as continuing response to prior disasters and other disaster relief activities.