

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 27, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the trip you will be making to Joplin, Missouri, this weekend. I know it will mean a lot to the community, and I'm glad you're going.

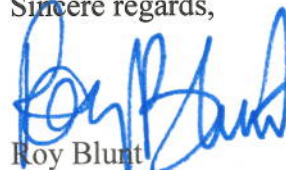
Joplin was in my Congressional District. It is a community with which I am very familiar. I am also familiar with tornado damage, having grown up in Southwest Missouri and then representing that area for fourteen years in the U.S. House. The level of damage by any standard is extraordinary.

I visited New Orleans, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama several times after Hurricane Katrina. That damage was also extraordinary, and the federal government made the decision for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse qualified expenditures at 100 percent.

I spoke to Secretary Napolitano earlier this week and strongly urged that the reimbursement rate for Joplin also be 100 percent. The traditional 75-25 percent cost-sharing would be totally inappropriate in this circumstance.

Joplin and the entire state of Missouri appreciate your Administration's quick response to this unprecedented disaster. Again, thank you for making the trip to Missouri. I stand ready to help or answer any questions your team might have about recovery efforts in the City of Joplin.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator