



## Washington State Legislature

January 30, 2009

The Honorable Christine Gregoire  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Gregoire,

As I'm sure you are aware, the recent snow and subsequent rain-on-snow events have resulted in a great deal of damage to many properties.

I have gotten many reports of snow-collapsed buildings as well as flood-ravaged homes and businesses in Cowlitz County, yet I have not seen inclusion of Cowlitz County on the list of disaster counties. Many are waiting for help as did Katrina hurricane victims. Our residents and business owners should not have to wait months or years to get assistance – nor should they be left with no help at all.

I have received word that Cowlitz County has sustained enough damage to qualify for disaster relief. I would respectfully request you work with Cowlitz County EMD and local home and business owners to help them get the assistance they need by adding Cowlitz County to the list of disaster counties.

In these recessionary times, every day a business can't operate is another day workers are left with no pay. Every day a homeowner is out of his or her home is a day they pay rent and a mortgage. They need help now – help they need from you.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you need additional or supporting information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Ed Orcutt  
State Representative, 18<sup>th</sup> District

Jaime Herrera  
State Representative, 18<sup>th</sup> District