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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency Denies federal assistance to local counties

CLANTON- Today the Alabama Emergency Management Agency learned the request for federal assistance for Sumter and Marengo Counties has been denied by Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate on behalf of President Barack Obama. Tuesday Governor Robert Bentley submitted a request for federal assistance to President Obama, for the tornadoes, severe storms, hail and straight-line winds that occurred on April 15th and 16th

According to the letter received from FEMA, they determined that the damage to the dwellings from this event was not of such severity and magnitude as to be beyond the capability of the State, voluntary agencies and local affected governments.

“We are highly disappointed and upset in this denial of assistance for Marengo and Sumter Counties, the affected counties have levels of poverty almost double the national average and unemployment rates exceeding the national average,” said Alabama EMA Director Art Faulkner. “Without Federal Assistance, the affected individuals cannot effectively recover from this event.”

The state of Alabama will continue to do all we can to help the residents whose lives were devastated by the deadly storms.

The state is assessing its options; Governor Bentley has 30 days from today (April 22) if he decides to appeal.

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*For more information contact, AEMA Public Information Office at 205-280-2275 or 205-280-2255
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