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**ELLIOTT COUNTY  
JUDGE EXECUTIVE**

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing today to advocate for ER Assist to remain on State Master Service Agreement.

Elliott County benefited from the Commonwealth's foresight of having a Disaster Aid Services Master Service Agreement (MSA) after the 2021 ice storm and flood. After the first couple of days of restored power, as we surveyed the county and saw the sheer volume of damaged trees and roads, we started hearing about a company on MSA called ER Assist that could help us with our FEMA paperwork. We were suspicious at first—having just gone through 3 weeks with limited power, little sleep, and devastating weather impacts, the last thing we wanted to do was talk to a “storm chaser,” but we interviewed them and grilled them with our questions. We decided to hire them. We still have a few steps to go, but the recovery process has been mostly without surprise and relatively painless. Just knowing a subject matter expert is in our corner has given us a lot of peace.

We are a fiscally constrained county--when ER Assist learned of our financial situation, they went to work to find a way to have our “local share” of our disaster costs covered by other grants. They educated us on the “donated resources” grant, with that knowledge our staff went to work collecting volunteer hours and equipment hours—FEMA actually paid us for our volunteer time. This donated resources grant, combined with the State LMPP grant, took a significant burden off of the county.

We have continued our relationship with ER Assist—they are currently but as we submitted FEMA 404 Hazard Mitigation projects. ER Assist is a valuable extension of our abilities, and we hope to continue our relationship with them.

Sincerely,

Elliott County Judge Executive