



Friends,

I'm elected to be your State Representative and I am entrusted to be your advocate. Because of that, **the buck stops with me.**

Over the past few days, I haven't been reluctant to publicly and forcefully share my frustration and anger at our current situation in Texas. We shouldn't be where we are. We should've been better prepared. Our grid should've been better safeguarded and our plants, generators, transmission equipment and lines better protected. The State should've communicated to you earlier, more clearly and truthfully.

As I've said multiple times this week, you expect and demand better. You deserve better. The buck does indeed stop with me. And to the extent I missed or dropped the ball leading up to this terrible storm, I sincerely apologize.

This afternoon as I reflect on where we are, how we got here and where we go in the days ahead, I'm ever mindful of what my mother said to me countless times growing up when I apologized after a mistake or a mess-up: "Sorry means change." In other words, "Don't just say the words ... do something about it." Those were some strong words for a young Jeff Leach. And those are some wise-words for all elected officials, including me.

So in the days and weeks to come, I am going to ask the tough questions on your behalf. Why did this happen? What could we have done to better prepare? Who and what responsible entities and individuals should be held to account? How could we have more effectively communicated to the citizens of Texas - both before and during the storm - and equipped you to make informed decisions for your family?

This cannot be political or personal and it cannot become a futile exercise of finger-pointing or a game of bureaucratic hot-potato.

Instead, I'm going to pursue honest answers and fight for real solutions. I will own our state's mistakes and missteps, including my own. I'll be transparent, forthright and honest with my constituents, because you deserve nothing less. And I'll do everything I can to fight on your behalf, to right the ship, to address our problems and strengthen our weaknesses to ensure this never happens again in the State of Texas.

While we look forward to those crucial challenges on the horizon, we remain laser-focused on helping and serving our constituents right here and right now. Be assured that I am present here in the District, living through this with you, and that I and my dedicated team are more committed than ever to meeting you at the point of your need.

We awoke this morning to positive reports that power had finally been restored to thousands of constituents throughout our District. That's really good news and we're grateful for it. That said, there are still many who continue to report to me that they remain without power. To those neighbors, be assured I hear you — I know who you are and where you are. And I am doing everything I can to help you. I hope to be able to report to you very soon that all of our citizens have had their power restored. That's our goal and we won't rest until we achieve it.

And to the linemen, truck drivers, first responders and all of those actually doing the work in the freezing cold to get us back on track, you are heroes. And we thank you.

While the weather emergency may be behind us, the clean-up and recovery from what will turn out to be the costliest storm in our state's history will be arduous for many. To that end, please know that I am working with my team on compiling an extensive list of helpful resources for our constituents as we move forward. We hope to have that to you tomorrow. In the meantime, be assured that I and my team, just like we've been this week, will be right here, always a phone call or e-mail away, ready to lend a hand and eager to serve.

God bless you, friends. In both the sunshine and the storm, it's my honor to be your State Representative.

All My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Leach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Leach".

Jeff Leach

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