STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, beginning on February 29, 2012 and March 2, 2012, Kentucky has experienced an extraordinary outbreak of severe weather consisting of hurricane force winds, super cells, tornadoes, and flash flooding, all resulting in injuries, loss of life and significant damage and destruction across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, these conditions continue to endanger public health and safety and threats to public and private property; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments share in the protection and restoration of the public health, safety, and security of its citizens and to take appropriate actions to ensure essential public service;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven L. Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of authority vested in me by the Constitution of Kentucky, and by Chapter 39 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, do hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. That a state of emergency exists requiring relief from the hours of service imposed upon the transporters of relief supplies, to include food, water, medicine and other commodities within the affected areas. This shall also include any utility vehicle responding to affected areas in response to power restoration and debris removal. This shall only apply to those truck drivers transporting goods or the restoration of utilities as part of the relief effort.

2. That commercial motor vehicles and their operators transporting relief supplies to the affected areas shall be exempt from permit fees for overweight/overdimensional vehicles during the period of emergency;

3. That commercial motor vehicles and their operators transporting needed hay, water, forage and other supplies to the affected areas for livestock needs shall be exempt from permit fees for overweight/overdimensional vehicles during the period of this emergency;

4. That the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Department of Vehicle Regulation is authorized to waive certain size and weight restrictions as they determine to be appropriate to meet the needs of the affected areas. In order to insure the safety of the traveling public and its infrastructure, the carrier must obtain all necessary permits for route verification.
5. That the IRP Registration Requirements for vehicles providing relief services and relief supplies to the affected areas shall be waived;

6. That all other safety requirements shall remain in full force and effect;

7. That any driver operating under authority of this Declaration of Emergency shall have a copy of this Declaration in the cab of the vehicle;

8. This Declaration of Emergency shall remain in effect until 12:01 AM E.S.T., April 2, 2012.

This Order is effective March 2, 2012.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

ALISON LUNDEGAN GRIMES
Secretary of State