

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2025

David Richardson
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Acting Administrator Richardson,

We write in strong support of the State of Wisconsin's request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to work with Wisconsin Emergency Management to conduct a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). This assessment is necessary to determine whether the damage meets the thresholds for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.

On August 9 and 10, historic rainfall caused severe flooding across the Milwaukee region, resulting in widespread damage to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure. The storm produced the second-highest 48-hour rainfall total on record in Milwaukee. Some areas saw more than 14 inches of rain in under 24 hours, overwhelming roads, basements, parking structures, and utility systems. The Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Root rivers reached record levels, flooding thousands of properties and prompting emergency crews to respond to hundreds of rescues and infrastructure problems.

Conducting a timely Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment is an essential first step in securing the federal support needed to help affected families, local governments, and communities recover and rebuild. We understand that state officials are actively collecting and compiling detailed damage assessment information to provide to FEMA. We urge FEMA to begin work in partnership with Wisconsin Emergency Management as soon as possible so that this process can move forward without delay.

We anticipate that the state will promptly submit a formal request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration following completion of the Joint PDA. Federal assistance will be critical to repairing the damage from these severe weather events and supporting the long-term recovery of our communities.

We appreciate FEMA's continued partnership with the State of Wisconsin and urge your timely consideration of this urgent request. We look forward to working with you throughout this process to ensure Wisconsin families and communities receive the support they need.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



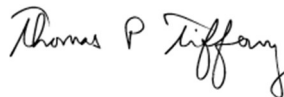
Ron Johnson
U.S. Senator



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



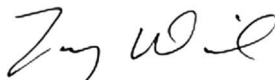
Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Tony Wied
Member of Congress