

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

The Honorable Mark T. Esper
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Administrator Gaynor and Secretary Esper:

We write to express support for the State of Wisconsin's request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate federal assistance for Wisconsin to respond to the current emergency. Additionally, we write to ask for support from the Department of Defense in providing the necessary authorities for the Wisconsin National Guard under Title 32(f) in support of the current federal emergency. Federal assistance at this time is critical to leverage the efforts the State of Wisconsin is undertaking at the state and local level to contain the spread of the virus and to address and mitigate the consequences of its continued spread.

Specifically, we request your support in allowing the Wisconsin National Guard to utilize Title 32 authority and resources to provide the following critical capabilities, as outlined in a recent letter from Governor Tony Evers which we have attached for your convenience:

Community based specimen collection and testing for the virus, including:

- Establishing and providing resources for testing sites, with the location and number to be determined by WEM;
- Providing site operations, including information and temperature collection, specimen collection, and transportation of specimen; and
- Providing additional support as needed to operate the sites and support personnel assigned to the collection assignment.

Medical surge capacity, including providing:

- A surge resource to medical facilities most severely affected by the intake of patients suffering from COVID-19;
- Training in use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); and
- Basic level care, assist with intake, and assist providers and nurse staff at medical facilities.

Logistics, warehousing and transportation support, including providing:

- point of distribution operations and management of essential commodities, to include PPE;

- Transportation operations for PPE released to the State of Wisconsin from the National Stockpile;
- Organizational control of support infrastructure developed to distribute PPE inventory;
- Support resupply and supply chain operations to critical supplies are distributed;
- Rotary and fixed wing capacity to assist with transportation support of essential resources; and
- Resources to ensure food, water, and critical supply distribution.

Isolation support centers, including providing:


- Medical personnel qualified to establish and maintain isolation sites for known COVID- 19 patients, trained to utilize PPE; and
- Personnel capable of providing the administration and sustainment of isolation centers.


Public Safety, including providing:


- Security forces upon request to ensure public safety;
- State rapid response forces to ensure security;
- Resources to support first responders and Department of Corrections facilities in support role due to illness;
- Additional planning support to State agencies to assist with COVID-19 resource response; and
- Engineering support to civilian authorities.


Authorizing Title 32 duty status will allow the Wisconsin National Guard to apply its resources and capabilities to support civil authorities. It is our hope that you will give the Governor's request due consideration and quickly approve the federal assistance outlined in his letter.

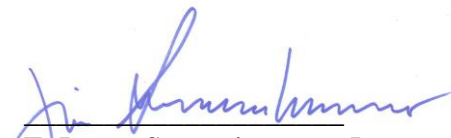


Sincerely,


 Tammy Baldwin
 United States Senator


 Ron Johnson
 United States Senator


 Mark Pocan
 Member of Congress


 Mike Gallagher
 Member of Congress


F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress
Bryan Steil
Member of Congress
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress
Ron Kind
Member of Congress
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Ryan McCarthy
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

General Joseph L. Lengyel
Chief, National Guard Bureau
1636 Defense Pentagon Suite, 1E169
Washington, D.C. 20301