COMMITTEES: APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 February 14, 2018

Acting Administrator Brandye Hendrickson Federal Highway Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Hendrickson:

I write to urge you to make Emergency Relief funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) available for the Wisconsin communities affected by significant flood damage over the past two summers.

This includes the flooding events below:

- July 2016—Bayfield, Sawyer, Ashland, Iron and Douglas Counties
- August 2016—Buffalo, Trempealeau, and Eau Claire Counties
- September 2016—Crawford, Vernon, Richland, Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties
- July 2017—Buffalo, Crawford, Dane, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Lafayette, Monroe, Pepin, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties

In 2016 and 2017, torrential rain and severe flooding damaged roads and bridges, homes and businesses across twenty-four counties in Wisconsin. I appreciate the support FHWA has provided thus far, including the quick release of federal emergency transportation funding at my earlier request to address initial roadway damages following the 2016 storms. However, many sites eligible for Emergency Relief remain in need of repairs as communities continue down the long road to fully recover from the flooding damages.

Last week, Congress passed a two-year budget deal and disaster aid spending—which included nearly \$1.4 billion for the Emergency Relief Program that will allow states to repair federal-aid highways damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events. I ask that you work quickly make this funding available to Wisconsin to ensure residents have access to safe and reliable transportation.

Thank you for your ongoing attention and consideration of this important matter.

> 1

Tanimy Baldwin
United States Senator