

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2018

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request federal assistance for the Wisconsin communities impacted by recent storms and flooding, which particularly impacted the southwestern and northcentral counties of La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe, Crawford, Juneau, and Adams. Severe damage has already been documented, including impassable roads and bridges, dam failures, downed phone lines, and crippling damage to local farms. With further storms forecasted, it is critical that federal agencies stand ready to provide support.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognized the severity of the storms and took the initial step to deploy a Liaison Officer (LNO) to the area, who will provide technical assistance to the local communities. As state, county, and local officials work to assess the damage with the LNO, the state may determine that damage levels are high enough for a federal disaster declaration. Should Governor Walker make a request for FEMA to conduct damage assessments and seek a federal disaster declaration, we would strongly urge you to provide federal assistance and your full support.

Transportation infrastructure was also heavily damaged, and the flooding washed out several roads. Additionally, dozens of other roads were closed due to flooding damage, including portions of Interstate 90/94. The town of Coon Valley, Wisconsin, was among the hardest hit, with no access in or out of the village following over 10 inches of rainfall. Damage to these federal, state, and local roads could require disaster assistance from the Department of Transportation (DOT), and I encourage you to send a team from DOT to Wisconsin to assist in the damage assessments.

Damage from these storms will also almost certainly devastate some farmers already struggling to get by. To that end, I ask that you have members of the Department of Agriculture standing by to quickly provide any available federal assistance to ensure farmers can maintain operations.

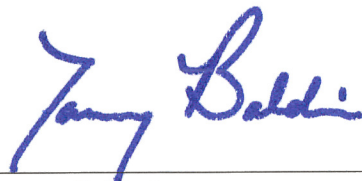
Finally, should the dedicated men and women of the Wisconsin National Guard be called to assist, we request that the Department of Defense provide all necessary support—as appropriate to the duty status in effect—to facilitate recovery efforts.

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

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate