

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 19, 2017

Mr. Robert J. Fenton, Jr.
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Acting Administrator Fenton:

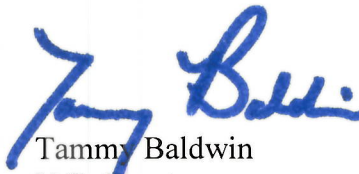
This week, a tornado and severe thunderstorms damaged dozens of homes, infrastructure and farms in various counties in northern and western Wisconsin. Governor Walker declared a State of Emergency for Barron, Jackson and Rusk counties and more than a dozen counties are reporting damage from the second series of storms that caused flooding and damage in various communities. Should the Governor request a disaster declaration, I would urge you to give it strong consideration, and I would ask FEMA to provide any needed support to state and local governments in the aftermath of these storms.

A tornado, strong winds and heavy rain on May 16 caused devastating damage throughout communities in northwestern Wisconsin, affecting dozens of residential homes and several farms. Specifically, a resident of Prairie Lake Estate Mobile Park tragically lost his life, and nearly an entire neighborhood was decimated, with dozens of homes destroyed. In addition, hundreds of trees were leveled, causing some areas to lose power and making certain roadways impassable. Furthermore, the second series of severe storms in Wisconsin the next day placed even more stress on these limited resources and closed four county highways due to major flooding.

State and local first responders have been on the front lines of recovery efforts and support services, contributing significant and limited resources to address this emergency. However, a disaster declaration may be critical to ensuring that residents, businesses and communities are able to effectively recover and rebuild from this emergency.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator