

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

July 14, 2016

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to issue a federal disaster declaration for Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer and Washburn counties in Wisconsin. Governor Walker has declared a State of Emergency in these eight counties and a formal federal disaster declaration request from the Governor is imminent.

Severe storms on July 11-12, 2016 caused devastating flooding and damage throughout northwestern Wisconsin. Specifically, sections of highways and roads have been destroyed, dozens of civilians were stranded and at least two fatalities have been confirmed. As a result of the roadways and driveways that have been washed out, many residents are stranded in their homes without electricity, gas or water. Property across the region has been decimated, including most of the marina and approximately 85 boats at Saxon Harbor in Iron County. The tourism industry, which is critical to our local economies, faces immediate and long term impacts due to the destruction of infrastructure.

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

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

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator

CC: Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency