

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 30, 2018

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

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing 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, St. Croix, and Adams. Heavy rainfall and storms also battered portions of eastern Wisconsin, including Ozaukee, Washington, and Fond du Lac counties, the last of which saw multiple tornadoes touch down. Severe damage has already been documented, including impassable roads and bridges, dam failures, downed phone lines, and crippling damage to local farms. Tragically, the storms and flooding have resulted in the death of at least one individual. Due to the severity and scale of this ongoing weather, Governor Scott Walker has declared a State of Emergency for all of Wisconsin. With further storms forecasted, it is critical that federal agencies stand ready to provide support.

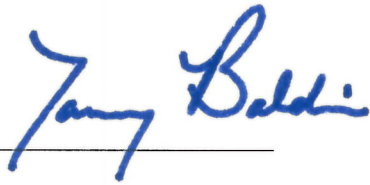
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recognized the severity of the storms and has taken the initial step of deploying a Liaison Officer to Wisconsin to provide technical assistance to state, county, and local officials as they assess weather-related damage. If FEMA is asked to conduct formal damage assessments, we would strongly urge your support for such assistance, and if Governor Walker determines that damage levels are high enough and requests a federal disaster declaration, we would strongly urge you to approve that request.

Transportation infrastructure has been heavily damaged, and flooding has washed out several roads. Additionally, dozens of other roads were closed due to flooding damage, including portions of Interstate 90/94. Damage to these federal, state, and local roads could require disaster assistance from the Department of Transportation (DOT), and we encourage you to send a team from DOT to Wisconsin to assist in the damage assessments. Storm-related damage also will likely devastate some farmers already struggling to get by. To that end, we ask that you ensure the Department of Agriculture is standing by to quickly provide any available federal assistance to ensure farmers can maintain operations.

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

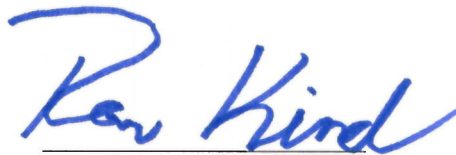
Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin

United States Senator



Ron Kind

Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman

Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable James Mattis, Secretary of Defense

The Honorable General Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau

The Honorable Brock Long, FEMA Administrator

The Honorable Brandye Hendrickson, Federal Highway Administration Deputy Administrator