

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of Michigan's Major Disaster declaration request in response to widespread and severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding starting on August 23, 2023. The Governor has requested all Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA) programs for Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, and Wayne Counties.

Starting on August 23, heavy rainfall began to inundate Michigan, which was followed by severe thunderstorms, additional rainfall, and several tornadoes. This caused severe destruction to homes, businesses, and infrastructure, leading to at least two tragic deaths and multiple injuries. The affected counties have overall poverty, SNAP benefit use, and unemployment rates that exceed the national average. Additionally, 5 out of Michigan's 11 Community Disaster Resilience Zones are located in counties covered in this request. As you know, these factors indicate that these communities are particularly vulnerable after disasters and increases the need for federal assistance to ensure equitable recovery.

The impacted jurisdictions have estimated the disaster caused over \$22 million in immediate response costs and damage to public buildings and infrastructure and over \$24 million in estimated private losses. While only a fraction of these costs may be eligible for reimbursement, federal assistance is critical to ensuring that this fiscal strain does not negatively impact the availability of government services for citizens. Additionally, damage assessments conducted in order to estimate IA needs identified 23 destroyed homes, 219 homes with major damage, 661 homes with minor damage, and 220 affected homes in the disaster area. The Governor has estimated that individuals would be eligible for \$5.5 million in Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance. This assistance is particularly important given that there is a significant lack of insurance, particularly flood insurance, for impacted households. The per capita indicator for the most impacted counties greatly exceeds the current level set by FEMA at \$4.44 with some counties greatly exceeding it. For instance, the recovery cost per capita for Ingham County is \$30.40 and \$22.04 for Eaton County. The magnitude of damage for the state, which is still recovering from seven other state-declared disasters occurring in the past 24 months, requires federal assistance to fully recover.

We commend the great work the federal government has done in helping Michigan recover from previous disasters. However, in the absence of a federal disaster declaration, Michigan will not have the capacity to ensure these communities receive the aid they need to fully recover. We urge your speedy approval of this request.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



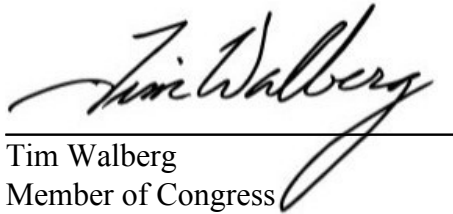
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



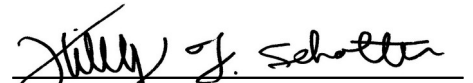
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



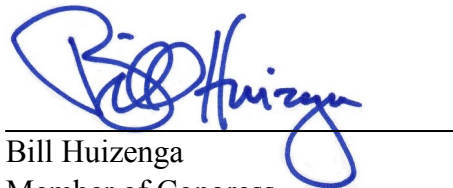
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



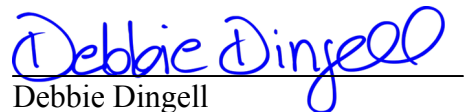
John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Lisa C. McClain
Member of Congress



John James
Member of Congress