

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

CC: Mr. Michael Chesney, Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region V
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of the State of Michigan's appeals to multiple federal disaster aid denials in response to widespread and severe winter storms during the period of March 28-30, 2025. The Major Disaster Declaration that you declared on July 22, 2025, included federal disaster aid for many Public Assistance categories including funding for emergency work and certain permanent repairs across 13 counties and for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians. However, FEMA later denied Public Assistance (PA) category F: public utilities, Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which are critical for recovery to continue. We commend you for helping Michigan begin to recover from this disaster and urge the reconsideration and approval of PA category F: public utilities, IA, and HMGP to help Michigan finish the job.

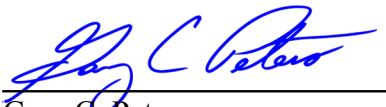
The winter storms resulted in severe ice accumulation, widespread destruction to homes, businesses, and infrastructure, and caused long-term power outages for hundreds of thousands of residents. Residents in northern Michigan are still being impacted by long-term damage. In addition, rural electric cooperative companies, including Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-Op and the Great Lakes Energy Co-Op were hit hard by the storm, with restoration costs exceeding \$150 million for each co-op. Without PA category F, these co-ops will have to recover these losses through increased costs paid by their local customers, with some customers already paying more per month. These rate increases are expected to continue for many years, placing a greater financial burden on already vulnerable areas, with higher-than-average poverty and unemployment rates, and a significant population of individuals over 65 years of age, have disabilities, or receive retirement income.

While the Small Business Administration Rapid Administrative Disaster Declaration was helpful for eligible residents, with over 200 applications being submitted, not all of the impacted counties were covered by the SBA Declaration. Approving IA for the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle, and the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, would allow for more eligible

residents to access necessary assistance for recovery, including to repair their homes and conduct debris removal. In addition to helping residents recover now, HMGP funds are vital to ensure that necessary long-term projects aimed at reducing future risks can be accomplished, so we urge that HMGP also be approved for Michigan.

The reconsideration and approval of this aid will help Michiganders continue to recover from these devastating storms. In the absence of PA category F, IA and HMGP, residents across northern Michigan will not be able to fully recover. We urge your speedy consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress