

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to support Governor Whitmer's recent request for a Major Disaster declaration, including activation of all Individual Assistance programs, for the counties of Branch, Cass, and St. Joseph in addition to Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding. We ask that you approve this declaration as soon as possible to direct federal resources towards the site of destruction caused by four tornadoes ranging from EF-0 to EF-3, which significantly damaged homes and businesses in the area.

On March 6, 2026, four tornadoes impacted the counties of Branch, Cass, St. Joseph and the surrounding area, tragically resulting in the loss of four lives, making this the deadliest tornado incident in Michigan in five decades. This horrible disaster also destroyed businesses, created significant power outages for residents and critical infrastructure like hospitals and dispatch centers, displaced residents from their now-uninhabitable homes, and left considerable debris in its wake. These damages are particularly concentrated in and around the communities of Edwardsburg, Union Lake and Three Rivers. The survivors—especially the many low-income, uninsured and underinsured, disabled, and senior citizens residing in the area—will need federal assistance. It is likely that there will be disaster related unemployment due to the storm's impact on businesses.

The state, county, and local governments stepped up to meet this disaster with all available resources and authorities. Emergency first responders including brave volunteers, EMS, Michigan Task Force 1, and the Michigan State Police have been working on the ground since the event, providing lifesaving assistance despite communication disruptions. However, federal assistance will also be required to help the community fully recover.

Michigan is home to some of the most resilient and selfless citizens in our nation. Nevertheless, additional resources are needed so the residents and business owners in this

community can recover from this disaster. Thank you for your swift attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



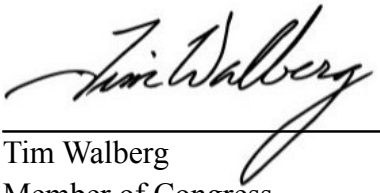
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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



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Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator



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Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

cc: Michael Chesney  
Acting Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region 5