

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2026

Administrator Kelly Loeffler
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St., SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Loeffler:

We write to offer our full support of Governor Gretchen Whitmer's April 27, 2026, request for an administrative declaration of disaster through the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Rapid Disaster Declaration process, following the four tornadoes that caused catastrophic damage and the tragic loss of life in southwestern Michigan on March 6, 2026.

These devastating tornadoes destroyed homes, caused major and minor damage to homes, and damaged businesses in the counties of Branch, Cass and St. Joseph. This damage to homes and businesses has disrupted the local economy and compounded existing financial hardship throughout the impacted area. While state resources have already been mobilized to assist in this recovery effort, the hardships faced by businesses exceed the State of Michigan's capacity to address them alone.

We understand that SBA has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Michigan Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, and county officials to conduct a damage assessment of the impacted areas. The counties of Branch, Cass and St. Joseph have met SBA's threshold. Therefore, we support the Governor's request for low-interest loans to be made available to help Michiganders recover.

The hardworking people and businesses of Michigan are strong and resilient. Yet, local capacity is limited, and recovery of this magnitude requires a coordinated effort at all levels of government. As such, we respectfully request that SBA swiftly approve Governor Whitmer's request for an administrative declaration of disaster. This declaration would make available critical federal support and resources to struggling homeowners and business owners as they recover from these devastating tornadoes.

We appreciate SBA's continued support for disaster-affected regions, and we respectfully request your full and fair consideration of this request.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

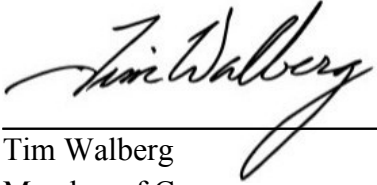
Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

cc: Kem R. Fleming
Director
Small Business Administration
Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience