

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 2, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your swift approval of Michigan's Major Disaster declaration for the storms on June 25-26, 2021. We write in support of Governor Whitmer's request to amend Major Disaster declaration FEMA-4607-DR. The Governor has requested all Individual Assistance (IA) programs be activated for Macomb and Oakland, and all categories of Public Assistance (PA) be activated for Ionia, Washtenaw, and Wayne.

At the time of the initial request, damage assessments for public infrastructure were ongoing, and the full scope of damage was still unclear. Additional Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) have shown that Ionia and Wayne counties have significantly exceeded the \$3.89 countywide per-capita indicator threshold for Public Assistance programs. Substantial public damages were also verified in Washtenaw County. Affected counties face \$5.3 million in verified debris removal costs and over \$5 million in emergency protective measures. The estimated costs for emergency response and repairs to public facilities and infrastructure exceed \$120 million. While only a fraction of these costs are eligible for reimbursement, federal assistance is critical to ensuring that this fiscal strain does not negatively impact the availability of government services.

While Wayne and Washtenaw Counties are already eligible for Individual Assistance, significant damage to households has been documented in Macomb and Oakland Counties. The rainfall resulted in flooding and temporary closure of local roads and freeways in both counties. Many local jurisdictions reported localized flooding in residential areas and subdivisions. In total, over 1,000 homes self-reported damage in the two counties, and the true extent of damages is likely much greater. Additionally, demographic indicators show that disaster survivors in affected areas may be particularly vulnerable, including a significant number of people with disabilities, people living below the poverty level, the unemployed, and people living in renter-occupied housing units. Individual Assistance will be critical in assisting these vulnerable households to rebuild their lives and recover from the storms.

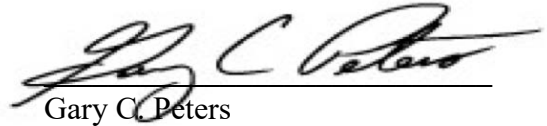
We commend all the great work of federal, state, and local officials in providing much needed assistance to date. However, there is still much more work to be done to protect livelihoods and ensure the safety of all those affected by the flood. We urge you to accept the Governor's request to amend the declaration and provide assistance so these communities can recover from this disaster. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator