



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

April 17, 2026

The Honorable Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bryan Steil
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Derrick Van Orden
1513 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Grothman
1211 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
451 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tony Wied
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Duly Elected Members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation:

I write regarding the recent severe storms, tornadoes, and historic flooding that began impacting Wisconsin this week and continue to cause significant damage to communities across our state. Wisconsin's families, businesses, and local and Tribal governments will need a strong federal partnership in the weeks and months ahead, and I am writing today to ask for your early engagement on behalf of our state.

Beginning on April 13, multiple rounds of severe weather have brought devastating winds, tornadoes, hail, and heavy rainfall to communities across Wisconsin. The National Weather Service has confirmed at least seven tornadoes to date, including an EF3 tornado that destroyed a home and damaged at least 32 other structures in Union Center in Juneau County, which I myself visited earlier this week. Heavy rainfall has caused widespread flooding across Wisconsin, resulting in the Wisconsin River cresting above flood stage near Portage, a large-scale evacuation order in the Village of Shiocton in Outagamie County, and flooding in Milwaukee that recalled last August's historic floods for many residents. On April 15, I signed an executive order declaring a statewide state of emergency and activating the Wisconsin National Guard to assist in response and recovery efforts. My administration, Wisconsin Emergency Management, and local responders are working around the clock to support evacuations and emergency response, and that work continues even as additional severe weather is in the forecast and as we prepare for the initial stages of damage assessment over the coming days and weeks.

As you know, last year, historic storms and flooding devastated communities in Door, Grant, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties, including what was later described as a 1,000-year flood event in Milwaukee County. Yet despite a clearly documented need and despite Wisconsin's long track record as an effective steward of federal disaster funds, the Trump Administration approved only a portion of our requests. Joint preliminary damage assessments validated more than \$27.5 million in eligible Public Assistance damages, more than two-and-a-half times the state's per capita threshold. Yet the Trump Administration denied both our Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program requests. We appealed these harmful decisions with updated damage assessments, a comprehensive case demonstrating the severity of the event, and concrete examples of Wisconsin's past hazard mitigation successes to support our request for funding to prevent future destruction. Members of this delegation, both Republicans and Democrats, sent letters of support to the Trump Administration on Wisconsin's behalf, for which I remain grateful. Even so, FEMA reaffirmed the denial of Public Assistance earlier this year, and Wisconsin's Hazard Mitigation appeal remains unanswered.

The result is that communities from rural villages in Grant County to densely populated suburbs in Milwaukee County were left without critical federal assistance, and local and state partners are absorbing tens of millions of dollars in disaster recovery costs largely on their own. Local governments are being asked to shoulder what the federal government has historically helped to bear, including infrastructure repairs, restoration of services, and mitigation work to protect residents from future harm. That should not be the experience of any state, and it should not be Wisconsin's experience again as we endure new extreme weather and prepare a new request for federal assistance for many of the same communities still rebuilding.

First, I continue to urge your collaboration and partnership in advocating for the Trump Administration to reconsider its denials of Wisconsin's requests for assistance from last year's storms and to approve our outstanding requests. These denials and delays have left Wisconsin more vulnerable to this next wave of storms and flooding.

Further, as we look toward helping Wisconsinites in the aftermath of the storms our state is presently enduring and work to rebuild and recover in communities across our state, I ask you to help convey the importance of FEMA assistance to the Trump Administration. It is clear that the Trump Administration is not willing to provide emergency assistance and relief to states, even if they exceed federal thresholds, as Wisconsin did last year. And the Trump Administration has little interest in funding common-sense hazard mitigation for repeat extreme weather events, even if it will save both money and lives. Letters of support from members of Wisconsin's delegation, direct conversations with Trump Administration officials, and bipartisan public engagement on behalf of our state all matter, and your public and persistent efforts to help advocate for Wisconsin to receive the assistance we need from federal partners, including President Donald J. Trump, will be key to ensuring our state's request is approved. It would be unfortunate if Wisconsin's anticipated requests for emergency assistance are once again declined, and most especially over no objection from members of Wisconsin's own congressional delegation.

Together in service,



Tony Evers
Governor