Administrator William B. Long  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Administrator Long:

I am writing to request that you expedite the damage assessments of the flooding and storm damage throughout Wisconsin, which will almost certainly prompt a federal disaster declaration request. I have concerns that Wisconsin communities' devastation will soon be overshadowed by the damages in the East Coast from Hurricane Florence. With early estimates of the damage being reported at $209 million and counting\(^1\), it is critical that your office send any needed FEMA personnel to Wisconsin to swiftly finalize all damage assessments in the state.

Flooding damage overwhelmed portions of Wisconsin, particularly in the southwestern and central regions of the state. County emergency officials who have been responding to flooding disasters for over a decade have stated that flooding in some parts of Wisconsin were the worst they had ever witnessed\(^2\).

The town of Gays Mills was nearly entirely engulfed with water just hours after the storms, and Coon Valley, Readstown, Viola, La Farge, Ontario, and others also witnessed historic levels of flooding. Rebuilding efforts in these communities could potentially use federal funding from FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, if a federal disaster designation is declared, to bolster their resiliency in the future.

Thank you for your dedication to supporting individuals, families, and communities affected by disasters in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. I thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

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\(^1\) [https://lacrossetribune.com/wisconsin-flooding-damage-estimated-to-be-million-so-far/article_b118c0b-2e5e-5b5c-bbe3-d8e896c45421.html](https://lacrossetribune.com/wisconsin-flooding-damage-estimated-to-be-million-so-far/article_b118c0b-2e5e-5b5c-bbe3-d8e896c45421.html)