The Honorable Scott Walker  
Governor of Wisconsin  
115 East Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Governor Walker:

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 moves swiftly to request all available federal resources in Wisconsin.

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 are the worst they had ever seen\(^2\). 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. The Ontario Village Board and other communities even held emergency meetings to have preliminary discussions on the possibility of moving their downtowns. 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.

I commend the efforts of local first responders, emergency management officials, and volunteers for their response to the storms. Their tireless efforts worked to prevent even more catastrophic damage from impacting Wisconsinites. Our local communities now rely on their state and federal governments to provide the support they need to rebuild their homes, businesses, and communities. I thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

\(^1\) https://lacrossetribune.com/wisconsin-flooding-damage-estimated-to-be-million-so-far/article_b118c0b-2e5e-5b5c-bbec3-d8e89645421.html