

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 3, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

This letter is being sent in support of Governor Gretchen Whitmer's appeal to add the Public Assistance (PA) program to FEMA-4607-DR, declared on July 15, 2021. The request for assistance under this program is consistent with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Since June 25<sup>th</sup>, our communities in Michigan have grappled with the aftermath of heavy rainfall, severe flooding, and tornados that have cause significant widespread damage in the region. This damage continues to affect the daily lives of our constituents as they recover and rebuild, threatening public health and the safety of residents.

Our State and Local officials, and first responders have worked tirelessly in the intervening months to quickly respond to this crisis, but additional federal assistance is crucial to ongoing efforts to assess and recover from the significant impact that this disaster has had on our communities. Many of these communities are bearing significant financial burden from damages and limited insurance coverage, while simultaneously taking every effort to assist those that have been displaced and are suffering from exacerbated health risks as a result of these storms.

FEMA has confirmed over \$26 million in public damage in Wayne, Washtenaw, and Ionia counties with a statewide per-capita loss of \$2.69, well above the \$1.55 per-capita threshold for PA. Furthermore, Ionia and Wayne counties suffered significant concentrations of damages causing high per-capita losses in both, with per-capita losses of \$10.54 and \$14.18 respectively, well above FEMA's \$3.89 threshold. These counties have also committed to ensuring their communities are prepared for future potential crises through their participation in Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) projects. Local jurisdictions have estimated that costs for emergency response and repairs exceed \$120 million, though only a small portion of these expenses has been found eligible for reimbursement under the PA program, leaving the burden of remaining costs needing to be shouldered by these communities.

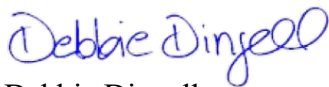
Presidential emergency declarations may authorize FEMA's PA program to support the response, recovery, and mitigation activities of state, local, and tribal governments, and nonprofits by providing direct assistance to these groups responding to a disaster. The PA program's direct assistance may be authorized for emergency work, permanent work, as well as some hazard mitigation measures for eligible facilities through the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA).

PA for emergency work is utilized to save lives, protect property, public health and safety, and lessen the major threats posed by a disaster including debris removal and emergency protective measures. PA for permanent work encompasses assistance for the repair, reconstruction, replacement, or relocation of public infrastructure and buildings.

We thank President Biden for declaring a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration on July 15, 2021, and FEMA's continued efforts to support our State's response to this crisis. We strongly support the Governor's request that the PA program be authorized to provide immediate, necessary assistance to protect the life, property, and recovery of our residents and communities.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent matter and any available federal assistance your administration is able to provide to our communities during this time of need.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Haley Stevens  
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress



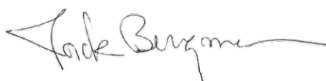
John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



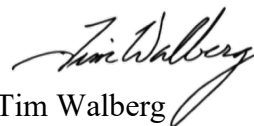
Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress