

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 3, 2021

The Honorable Stephanie Pollack
Acting Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Pollack:

As members of the Michigan Congressional delegation, we write to express our support for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) urgent request for \$50 million for resiliency funds as part of the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief (ER) program, to improve pump station generators.

Since June 25th, numerous cities across Southeast Michigan have suffered widespread damage as a result of heavy rainfalls, severe flooding, and tornados. The disaster has caused extensive damage to homes, personal belongings, and mechanical and electrical systems, disrupted businesses and transportation, and endangered the lives of residents. The flooding, which took the lives of two individuals in Wayne County, continues to affect these residents daily as they clean-up, assess the damage, and try to rebuild.

Our State and Local officials, and first responders have responded quickly to the immediate aftermath of this crisis, but additional federal support is necessary to address the significant impact that this disaster has had on our communities and prevent future disasters. As a result, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has declared a State of Emergency for Wayne, Washtenaw, Huron, and Ionia counties.

As we have discovered, many of these areas rely on pumps to prevent water from collecting on roadways, however these pumps were insufficient in containing the massive rainfall due to power failures – leading to widespread flooding, vehicles destroyed, and road closures. These closures have had a significant disruptive impact on our communities, businesses, and local economy despite the valiant efforts of State and Local officials to maintain two-way traffic in the aftermath of this crisis. One of the nation's main highway arteries that connects cities and commerce across the upper Midwest, Interstate 94, was severely affected and sections were shutoff for weeks. And this flooding is not new—it happens regularly and will likely continue.

While MDOT has taken active measures to alleviate repeated issues, additional support is required to ensure the continued operation of pump stations during future large-scale weather events. These requested funds would make long-term repairs and investments in our infrastructure to prevent future flooding and protect the lives, livelihood, and property of Michigan residents. Many of those affected by these storms have been displaced, are suffering

from exacerbated health risks, or are bearing significant financial burden from damages and limited insurance coverage. Substantive improvements, like addressing the need for improved pump station generators, would significantly curtail the potential impact of future storms in the region.

We strongly support MDOT's request for \$50 million as part of the ER program. Thank you for your immediate attention and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Lisa McClain
Member of Congress

Peter Meijer
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor, State of Michigan

The Honorable Paul Ajegba, Director, Michigan Department of Transportation