

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4906

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June 17, 2004

Michael D. Brown  
Under Secretary  
Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate/FEMA  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Undersecretary Brown:

We are writing to express our full support for the request by the State of Wisconsin for federal emergency disaster relief under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Twelve Wisconsin counties - Colombia, Clark, Crawford, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Jefferson, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Vernon and Winnebago - continue to experience extensive flood damage to public infrastructure, private businesses, homes and farmlands that cannot be mitigated without federal assistance.

New all-time precipitation records for the month of May and continuing rain this month made it impossible for the rivers, dams and ground in the affected counties to absorb additional precipitation from repeated rounds of heavy thunderstorms in early June.

Millions of dollars of flood damage has occurred throughout the state. Roads, bridges, homes and businesses have suffered varying degrees of damage. The majority of homes damaged are owned by low and moderate income families who do not have the resources or insurance to cover their losses. Dams now underwater have also been severely damaged, the full extent of which will not be determined until the waters recede. Public wastewater treatment systems have been overwhelmed. Finally, many early plantings by local farmers have been lost.

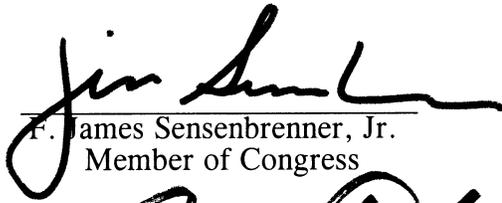
The state and local governments have responded quickly to assist the impacted areas, but the flood damage is too extensive to mitigate without immediate federal assistance. We urge you to quickly approve the Governor's request for disaster relief and emergency assistance. New damage assessments continue daily and the affected counties need immediate federal assistance to mitigate the financial and property damages to private homes, businesses and public infrastructure.

Thank you for your swift consideration of this request.

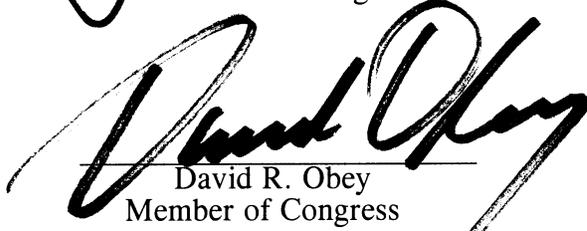
Sincerely,

  
Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress

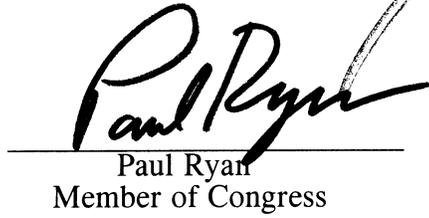
  
Herb Kohl  
U.S. Senator

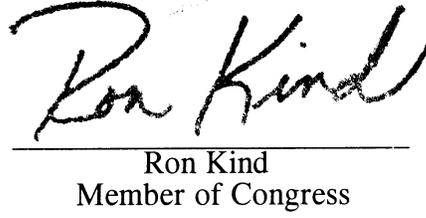
  
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Member of Congress

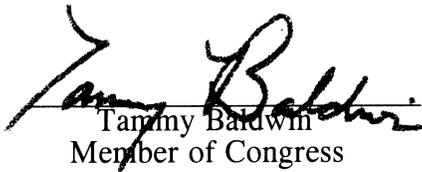
  
Russell D. Feingold  
U.S. Senator

  
David R. Obey  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Green  
Member of Congress

  
Paul Ryan  
Member of Congress

  
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

  
Gerald D. Kleczka  
Member of Congress