

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 12, 2026

Cameron Hamilton
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Hamilton,

We write in strong support of the State of Wisconsin's request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) with Wisconsin Emergency Management. This assessment is necessary to determine whether the damage meets the thresholds for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.

On July 27, a powerful EF3 tornado tore through Wisconsin's Fox Valley region, leaving a broad path of devastation across Appleton, Menasha, Neenah, and Fox Crossing. Preliminary findings from the National Weather Service indicate that the tornado remained on the ground for more than 20 minutes, traveled approximately 12 miles, and reached nearly one mile in width, with estimated winds of 136 to 165 miles per hour. The tornado ripped roofs from homes and businesses, hollowed out houses, reduced some structures to little more than their exterior walls, overturned vehicles, snapped trees, and brought down utility poles and power lines. Debris was scattered across neighborhoods and highways, roadways became impassable, families were displaced, and more than 30,000 homes and businesses lost power. In response to this widespread destruction, Governor Evers signed an Executive Order, declaring a state of emergency, and Neenah, Menasha, and the Town of Grand Chute issued local emergency or disaster declarations.

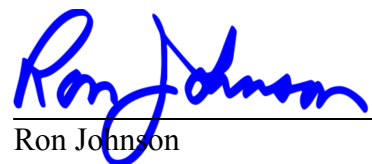
Conducting a timely Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment is an essential first step in securing the federal support needed to help affected families, local governments, and communities recover and rebuild. We understand that state officials are actively collecting and compiling detailed damage assessment information to provide to FEMA. We urge FEMA to begin work in partnership with Wisconsin Emergency Management as soon as possible so that this process can move forward without delay.

We appreciate FEMA's continued partnership with the State of Wisconsin and urge your timely consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you throughout this process to ensure Wisconsin families and communities receive the support they need.

Sincerely,



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



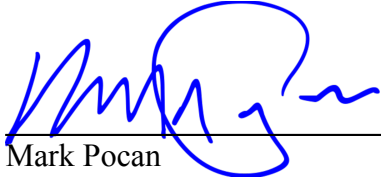
Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



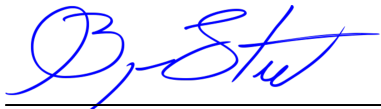
Tony Wied
Member of Congress



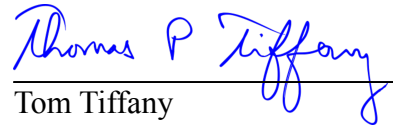
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



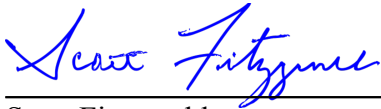
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



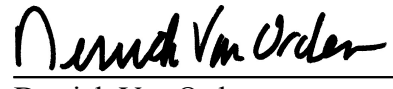
Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress