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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

March 29, 2018

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The Honorable William B. "Brock" Long  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Long,

I am writing regarding Ohio Governor John Kasich's request for a major disaster declaration as a result of severe flooding across the state in February 2018. I request that you give Governor Kasich's request prompt consideration, and hope that you recommend the President to make a presidential determination under the Stafford Act.

In February, Ohio was impacted by strong rains and winds, and the resulting floods inflicted major damage on water treatment, transportation, and roads. In the aftermath of the flooding, Governor Kasich issued an emergency declaration for Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Columbia, Gallia, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Pike, Scioto, Vinton and Washington counties.

As Governor Kasich noted in his request, several of the affected counties in Southern Ohio, which I represent, do not have a sufficient tax base for effective disaster recovery efforts on the local level. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA), in collaboration with local and private partners, has worked hard to address as much of the damage as possible, but federal assistance is necessary for a full recovery.

Given that the brunt of the damage from this event was to critical infrastructure in towns large and small along the Ohio River, including several roadways and the facility housing the Cincinnati Health Department, I believe that President Trump should make this declaration. Further, Governor Kasich and the Ohio EMA have provided clear and convincing evidence that this disaster meets the guidelines set forth under the Stafford Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I and my staff stand at the ready to provide any further information you may need, and I look forward to working with you in achieving a full recovery for the affected areas.

Sincerely,

Brad R. Wenstrup  
Member of Congress