

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2008

George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President,

On June 8, 2008, Governor Jim Doyle declared a state of emergency for thirty Wisconsin counties due to severe storms and flooding. Following two requests by the Governor for federal disaster assistance, seven of the thirty counties – Crawford, Columbia, Milwaukee, Sauk, Racine, Richland, and Vernon – were declared eligible for federal individual assistance. We write in strong support of requests for federal disaster assistance that we anticipate Governor Jim Doyle soon will make for many of the remaining 23 Wisconsin counties.

Beginning on June 5, severe weather struck Wisconsin, bringing heavy rainfall, damaging winds, and tornadoes to communities across the state. The seven to nine inches of rain that fell over a twenty-four hour period, combined with the already saturated soils due to the record snowfall our state experienced this winter, produced severe flooding in dozens of counties.

As you may know, Wisconsin is still recovering from severe storms that occurred in August 2007. Due to time and money constraints, many of the repairs on homes and dams in the region from last year's storms were not yet finished when the recent flooding occurred. There is great concern, therefore, that these hard-hit areas will suffer even further damage.

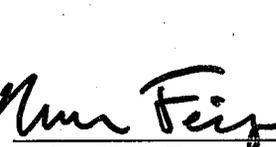
In typical style, Wisconsinites are helping themselves and others recover from this event. The financial and emotional costs, however, are tremendous. Many of the communities affected by the storms are rural, not densely populated, and are operated on small budgets. For those communities where financial reserves do not exist, they will be forced to divert dollars already budgeted for other purposes to the storm clean-up.

Governor Doyle has determined that this incident is of such severity that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state, county, and local governments and that federal assistance is needed and necessary. Due to the seriousness of the financial and physical damage, we encourage your quick approval for any of Wisconsin's additional requests for assistance related to this month's severe storms and flooding.

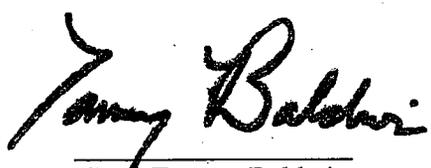
Thank you for your immediate attention to this request.

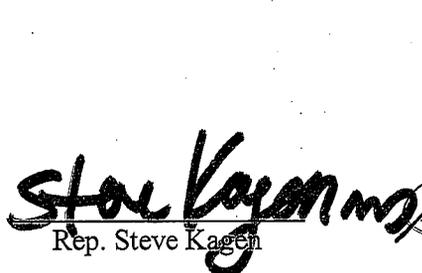
Sincerely,

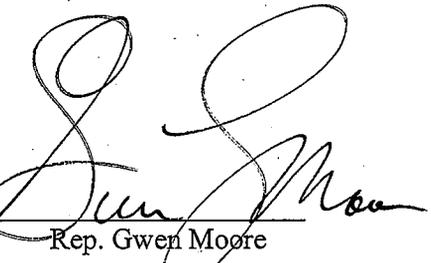

Rep. Ron Kind

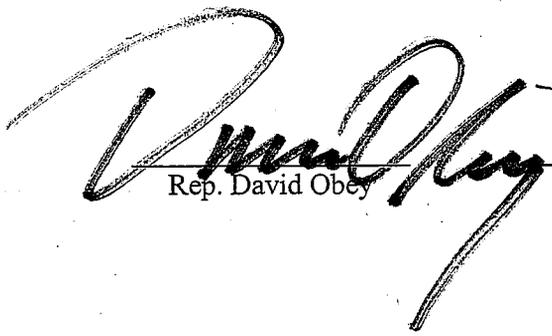

Sen. Russ Feingold

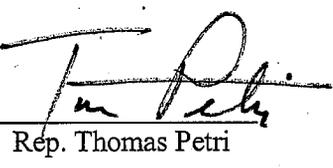

Sen. Herb Kohl

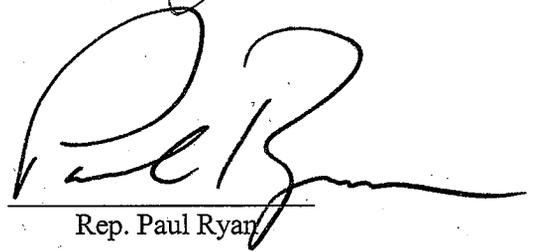

Rep. Tammy Baldwin

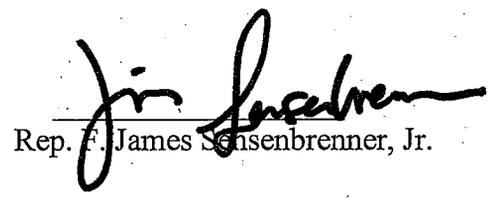

Rep. Steve Kagen


Rep. Gwen Moore


Rep. David Obey


Rep. Thomas Petri


Rep. Paul Ryan


Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.