

JOE DONNELLY
2ND DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
AGRICULTURE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1218 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3915
FAX: (202) 225-6798

DISTRICT OFFICES:
207 WEST COLFAX
SOUTH BEND, IN 46601
(574) 288-2780
FAX: (574) 288-2825

LAPORTE COUNTY COMPLEX
309 STATE STREET, ROOM 501B
LAPORTE, IN 46350
(219) 326-6808 EXT. 414
FAX: (574) 288-2825

300 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE #102
LOGANSPORT, IN 46947
(574) 753-2671
FAX: (574) 753-7615

April 24, 2008

Mr. Edward Buikema
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region V
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605-1521

Dear Mr. Buikema:

We are writing to convey to FEMA our strong support of the State of Indiana's appeal of the March 20, 2008 decision by the federal government to deny Public Assistance eligibility for certain northern Indiana counties hit hard by severe flooding that began January 7th of this year. As you know, on January 30th President Bush declared the event a major disaster (FEMA-1740-DR-IN).

A recent review by local, State and federal officials through the joint preliminary damage assessment process has verified that damage to the affected counties is more widespread and severe than initially known. Yesterday, on April 22, the State requested Public Assistance for Benton, Carroll, Cass, DeKalb, Elkhart, Jasper, Kosciusko, Marshall, Newton, Noble, Pulaski, Starke and White counties. The State also noted in its appeal that more counties may be added as warranted.

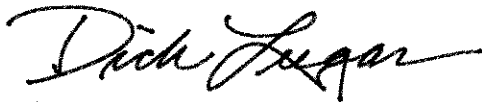
According to the State, the cost to repair destroyed and damage roads, highways, bridges, dams and other public property exceeds both the State's and local governments' abilities to adequately afford. Per capita infrastructure damage costs for the requested counties range from \$3.18 to \$70.23. Total non-federal expenditures that would be assumed by the State and local governments under Stafford Act assistance are expected to exceed \$1,854,864 and damage costs may rise even further.

The extensive infrastructure damage will impair the ability of many of these agriculture-dependent economies to generate income this year, and the increased traffic of farm equipment and trucks hauling heavy loads to market during the spring will exacerbate damage to weakened transportation infrastructure. Many of the communities hit hardest are small and lack the

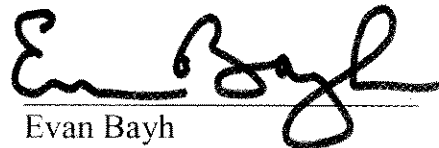
financial resources necessary to bear the burden of significant emergency response needs and the costs of infrastructure repairs and debris removal.

In light of the updated damage information, we respectfully ask that the federal government reconsider its denial and grant Public Assistance eligibility for the affected counties. We thank you for your consideration of this appeal, and please do not hesitate to contact us regarding this matter.

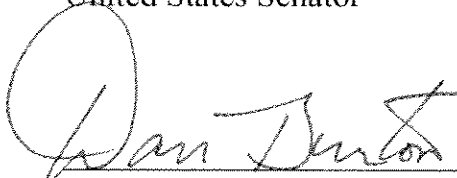
Sincerely,



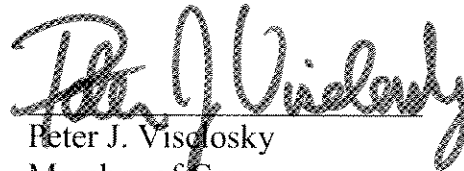
Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator



Evan Bayh
United States Senator



Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



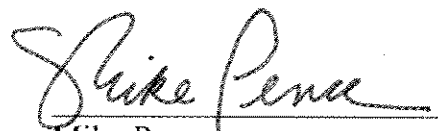
Steve Buyer
Member of Congress



Mark Souder
Member of Congress



Baron Hill
Member of Congress



Mike Pence
Member of Congress



Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress



Brad Ellsworth
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress