

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20416

Dear Mr. President:

We write to support Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's appeal of the denial of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance for 17 Illinois counties severely damaged by flash and river flooding that began on December 23, 2015, and continued through January 13, 2016. On March 10, the State was notified that its request for federal assistance to help Illinois recover and rebuild from the large-scale flood was denied. In light of the additional losses to these communities that have been identified and documented since the State's initial request, we request reconsideration of the Public Assistance determination.

Specifically, since the first round of assessments was conducted, an additional \$1.8 million in eligible disaster recovery costs have been identified.

All the counties included in the state's request for Public Assistance have exceeded the county threshold of \$3.57 per capita. Alexander County alone suffered an estimated damage of \$486 per capita, exceeding the county threshold by a factor of more than 100. The severity of the localized impact to these communities is undeniable, and we urge you to please carefully consider these factors when determining the state's appeal for Alexander, Bureau, Calhoun, Clark, Cass, Cumberland, Jackson, Jersey, Madison, Menard, Monroe, Morgan, Moultrie, Pike, Randolph, St. Clair, and Vermilion counties.

For three weeks, Illinois experienced torrential rainfall and winter storms that caused rivers in Illinois to reach record-high levels and destroy or damage homes. The State has dedicated significant resources to the response and recovery effort, but federal help is needed.

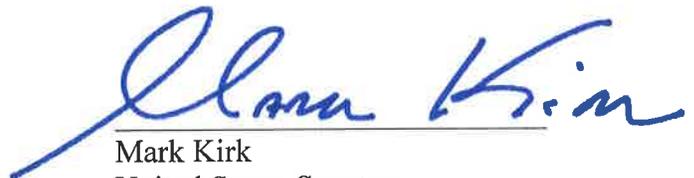
We respectfully request that you reconsider the State of Illinois' request for Public Assistance to help ensure these 17 counties receive the assistance they need to repair from the damage. We thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this important request and stand ready to assist in any way appropriate.

Sincerely,



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Mark Kirk  
United States Senator



Mike Bost  
United States Representative



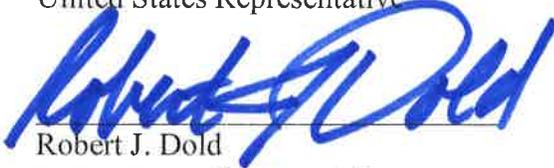
Cheri Bustos  
United States Representative



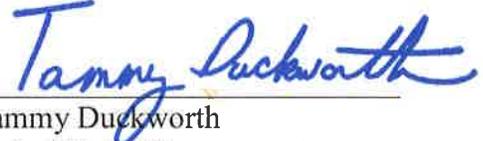
Danny K. Davis  
United States Representative



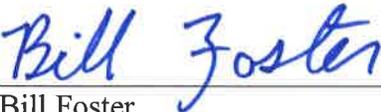
Rodney Davis  
United States Representative



Robert J. Dold  
United States Representative



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Representative



Bill Foster  
United States Representative



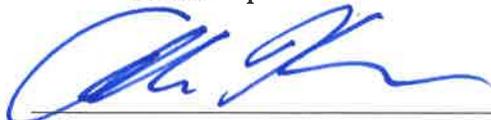
Luis V. Gutiérrez  
United States Representative



Randy Hultgren  
United States Representative



Robin Kelly  
United States Representative



Adam Kinzinger  
United States Representative



Darin LaHood  
United States Representative



Daniel Lipinski  
United States Representative



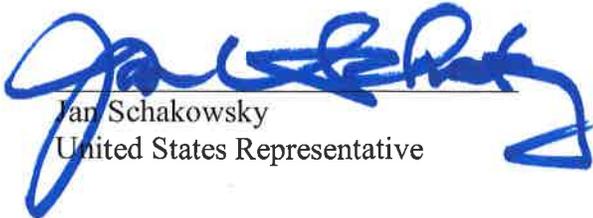
Michael Quigley  
United States Representative



Peter J. Roskam  
United States Representative



Bobby L. Rush  
United States Representative



Jan Schakowsky  
United States Representative



John Shimkus  
United States Representative

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