

RODNEY DAVIS
13TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

www.rodneymdavis.house.gov
www.facebook.com/reprodneydavis
www.twitter.com/rodneymdavis

2079 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2371

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1313

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March 8, 2021

Mr. Robert J. Fenton, Jr.
Acting FEMA Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Acting Administrator Fenton,

I write today regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) proposed rule on "Cost of Assistance Estimates in the Disaster Declaration Process for the Public Assistance Program." As FEMA considers changes in calculating Public Assistance, I ask that it not devalue "localized impact" during the determination process.

During the 115th Congress, President Trump enacted my legislation, the Disaster Declaration Improvement Act, as part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-254). Section 1232 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 states that "[i]n making recommendations to the President regarding a major disaster declaration, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall give greater consideration to severe local impact or recent multiple disasters."

I authored the Disaster Declaration Improvement Act in response to seeing many of my communities in central Illinois not receive relief because of the State of Illinois' high per capita indicator, as skewed by the City of Chicago. On numerous occasions surrounding states such as Iowa, Missouri, and Indiana would receive assistance for the same storm system, yet my communities were left out. I fought for this language so that my communities, far removed from the City of Chicago, would receive more fair consideration in the Disaster Declaration process.

Thank you for consideration of this request and I look forward to working with you to provide relief for our communities when they need it the most.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

2004 FOX DRIVE
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
(217) 403-4690

108 WEST MARKET
TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568
(217) 824-5117

1012 PLUMMER DRIVE
EDWARDSVILLE, IL 62025
(618) 205-8660

2833 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE EAST
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
(217) 791-6224

104 W NORTH STREET
NORMAL, IL 61761
(309) 252-8834

243 S WATER STREET, SUITE 100
DECATUR, IL 62523
(217) 791-6224