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

August 9, 2024

Mike DeWine
Governor of the State of Ohio
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

In light of this week's record-setting tornados and last night's extensive rainfall and flooding, we ask that you declare a state of emergency across Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Holmes, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Summit, and Wayne counties and request Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Damage Assessment Teams to survey the impacted areas.

On Tuesday afternoon, a severe weather system swept through Northeast Ohio including instances of tornadic activity, high gusts of winds, and severe thunderstorms. The National Weather Service confirmed two EF-1 tornadoes had touched down in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties, leaving behind significant damage impacting local communities. This damage affected trees, homes, businesses, motor vehicles, and utility infrastructure.

In addition, the electric utility company FirstEnergy reported nearly 470K customers in Northeast Ohio lost power. Additionally, it has been reported that as of the afternoon of Thursday, August 8, 2024 more than 300K customers will remain without power and the utility companies do not anticipate power restoration to many until Wednesday, August 14, 2024. Reports indicate that power remains out for residential customers in Cuyahoga County, many of which include elderly and disabled residents. Businesses, including grocery stores and restaurants, anticipate significant losses due to the severe storm. Even now, over 190,000 Ohioans are still without power and urgently need assistance.

To make matters worse, the night of Thursday, August 8, 2024, we saw the remnants of Hurricane Debby bring heavy rainfall and flooding across Northeast Ohio, with the National Weather Service issuing flash flood warnings in six counties. For the advisories in Solon, Hudson, Twinsburg, Streetsboro, South Russell, Aurora, Reminderville and Bainbridge Township, they warned that the flash floods could be "life-threatening." Roads in Akron, Bath, Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, and Silver Lake were closed overnight due to flooding. Cars were reportedly abandoned in roadways and basements were flooded as water rushed through the area. With reports of additional thunderstorms possible this weekend, it is critical that assistance reach Northeast Ohio immediately to prevent further damage and suffering.

We greatly appreciate that you have already taken the effort to issue a proclamation formally directing state agencies to be ready to offer further assistance to local communities. We are also comforted that the state has mobilized the Ohio Department of Health to aid with medical supplies and that other state agencies, including the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, are closely monitoring developments through their regulatory roles overseeing SNAP benefits and electric utilities, respectively.

We appreciate your leadership at this time and urge you to declare a state of emergency across Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Holmes, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Summit, and Wayne counties and request FEMA Damage Assessment Teams to survey the impacted areas.

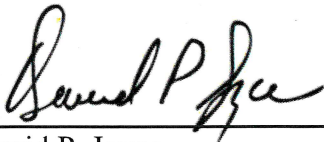
Sincerely,



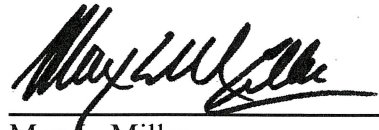
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Member of Congress



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