

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker's request for federal assistance for the State of Illinois to help eight Illinois counties recover from severe storm damage that occurred from August 11-16, 2026. Specifically, he requests a Major Disaster Declaration for Champaign, Cook, Ford, Fulton, McLean, Tazewell, Vermilion, and Will Counties.

Governor Pritzker has indicated that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments. We support his request for authorization of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) in the impacted counties, and Hazard Mitigation statewide. Additionally, we support his request for a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) physical and economic injury disaster declaration for the affected counties. This would enable low interest SBA disaster loans, including physical and economic injury loans, to support affected individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

During the August 11-16, 2026, period, a multi-day severe weather episode passed through Champaign, Cook, Ford, Fulton, McLean, Tazewell, Vermilion, and Will Counties, resulting in multiple rounds of severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding. The initial weather system on August 11 resulted in a derecho across Northern Illinois, producing widespread winds of 70 mph and eight tornadoes with peak winds near 115 mph. Follow-on storms repeatedly struck the same regions with severe weather, exacerbating the wind damage and resulting in historic levels of rainfall in some counties. All eight counties experienced significant damage from downed trees, power outages, and flooding. Subsequent damage has impacted homeowners, businesses, roadways, and infrastructure. As such, the Governor seeks timely federal assistance from FEMA and SBA.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important request. We stand ready to assist in any way appropriate.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



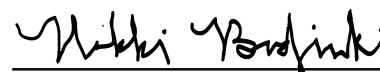
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



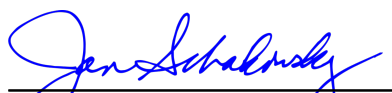
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



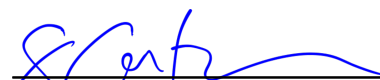
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



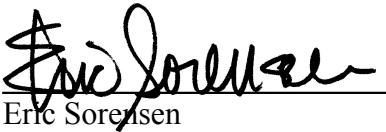
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



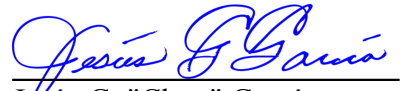
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



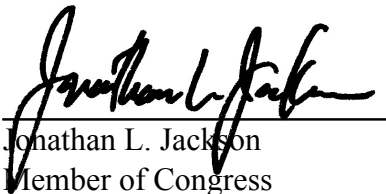
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress