

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We respectfully urge your immediate action in response to Governor Mike Kehoe's request for a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act, following the severe weather that impacted St. Louis and surrounding areas on May 16, 2025. The State of Missouri is seeking federal assistance due to the devastating effects of severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding. We strongly encourage you to approve this request and make critical federal resources available to support Missouri's recovery efforts.

On May 16, 2025, devastating storms swept across the Midwest, triggering catastrophic flooding and tornadoes that claimed at least 28 lives—26 of them in Missouri and Kentucky. In St. Louis alone, at least five individuals were killed, dozens were hospitalized, and more than 5,000 structures were damaged, with losses estimated to exceed \$1 billion.¹ These storms come on the heels of damaging weather events in March and April, further compounding the challenges facing communities already working to rebuild.

The State of Missouri has been working closely with local governments to coordinate emergency shelter, debris removal, infrastructure assessments, and other critical response efforts. A major disaster declaration would unlock vital federal assistance to support these operations, including Public Assistance for emergency protective measures and infrastructure repair, Individual Assistance for displaced and impacted residents, and Hazard Mitigation assistance to help reduce the risk of future disasters. These resources are essential to stabilizing affected communities and safeguarding public health and safety.

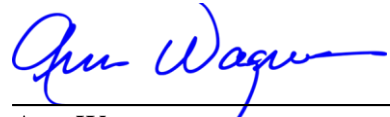
¹ "Recovery Efforts Continue After Widespread Tornado Damage," Fox2Now, May 19, 2025, <https://fox2now.com/news/missouri/recovery-efforts-continue-after-widespread-tornado-damage/>
#:~:text=ST.,power%20as%20cleanup%20efforts%20continue

Given the scale of devastation and the urgent need for federal assistance, we respectfully request swift approval of Missouri's disaster declaration. We appreciate your attention to this matter and stand ready to support efforts to ensure resources reach those who need them most.

Sincerely,



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



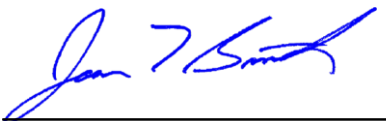
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Robert F. Onder, Jr.
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



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