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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–1401

June 9, 2008

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our strong support and expedited review for three of Governor Daniels' requests for a Major Disaster Area Declaration for the State of Indiana. We appreciate your swift response, already, to provide emergency protective measures to the impacted counties of Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Greene, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Morgan, Monroe, Ohio, Owen, Ripley, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Union, Vermillion, Vigo, and Wayne.

In Executive Order 08-09, the Governor is requesting assistance for the counties of Adams, Bartholomew, Benton, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Dearborn, Decatur, Elkhart, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Huntington, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lagrange, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Miami, Monroe, Morgan, Newton, Ohio, Owen, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Union, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warrick, Wayne and White. Additional assistance requests may be forthcoming.

In Executive Order 08-10, the Governor is requesting assistance for the counties of Brown, Clay, Greene, Johnson, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Shelby, Vermillion and Vigo counties. The Governor issued Executive Order 08-11 to add Bartholomew, Daviess, Decatur, Franklin, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Sullivan, Union and Wayne to this disaster declaration. Additional assistance requests may be forthcoming.

Severe weather including tornadoes, heavy rain, wind, and flooding has caused substantial damage to property, destroying homes, and businesses. Estimates indicate that the flooding in parts of the State of Indiana is the most severe in recorded history, exceeding record 1913 levels. This severe weather caused substantial damage to homes, businesses, farmland, utilities, and public facilities. This large-scale weather pattern has had a significant impact on the public health and safety for many Indiana communities. Heavy rainfalls and flooding caused damage to public and private property, including roads, bridges and sewage treatment facility overflows. State agencies have been activated to assist state emergency management personnel, local governments and law enforcement agencies with flood control, traffic management, public health, and debris removal, among others.

We hope careful consideration will be given to Governor Daniels' requests. Timely federal assistance is important to helping Indiana communities recover from these recent severe weather events.

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Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator

Evan Bayh
United States Senator

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

Steve Buyer
Member of Congress

Mark Souder
Member of Congress

Mike Pence
Member of Congress

Baron Hill
Member of Congress

Brad Ellsworth
Member of Congress

Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress