

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

February 26, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We write to support Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's request for federal assistance for the State of Illinois to help 21 of the hardest-hit counties recover from severe flash and river flooding that began on December 23, 2015, and continued through January 13, 2016. Individual Assistance is requested for Alexander, Christian, Clinton, Douglas, Iroquois, Jersey, Madison, Randolph, Sangamon, and St. Clair counties. Public Assistance is requested for Alexander, Bureau, Calhoun, Cass, Cumberland, Jackson, Jersey, Madison, Menard, Monroe, Morgan, Moultrie, Pike, Randolph, St. Clair, and Vermilion counties. Federal assistance is necessary to help these counties recover and rebuild from the large-scale flood damage.

As a result of torrential rainfall and winter storms, rivers in Illinois reached record-high levels and dangerous flooding occurred across the state. The Mississippi River at Thebes reached a crest level of 47.7 feet, which is the highest level reached on record. Preliminary Damage Assessments have determined that Illinois communities experienced significant uninsured losses and widespread property damage that totaled more than \$15 million. While the state did not meet FEMA's population-based threshold of \$18.1 million, all counties included in the state's request for federal assistance to local governments exceeded the required county threshold of \$3.57 per capita. Additionally, communities experienced road closures, evacuations, power outages, and at least ten fatalities – many of which were a result of flooded roadways.

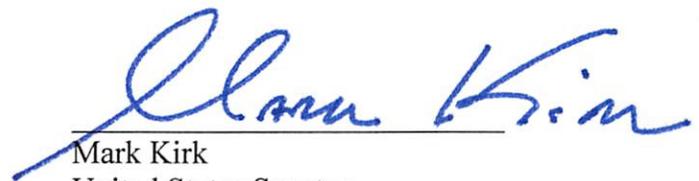
Governor Rauner has determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments. Supplemental federal assistance is necessary to help local governments in these counties recover up to 75 percent of their disaster-related expenses to clean up and rebuild.

We respectfully request that you approve our request for federal assistance so counties can receive the financial assistance that they need. We thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this important request and stand ready to assist in any way appropriate.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



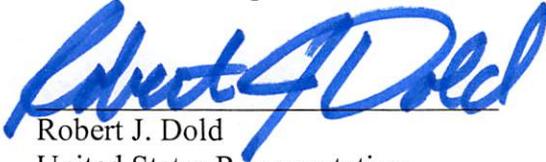
Mark Kirk
United States Senator



Mike Bost
United States Representative



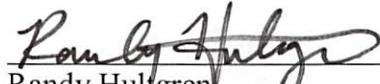
Danny K. Davis
United States Representative



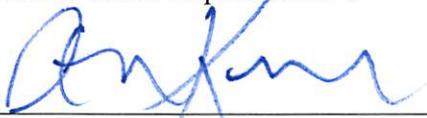
Robert J. Dold
United States Representative



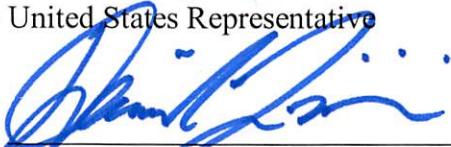
Bill Foster
United States Representative



Randy Hultgren
United States Representative



Adam Kinzinger
United States Representative



Daniel Lipinski
United States Representative



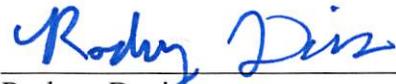
Peter Roskam
United States Representative



Jan Schakowsky
United States Representative



Cheri Bustos
United States Representative



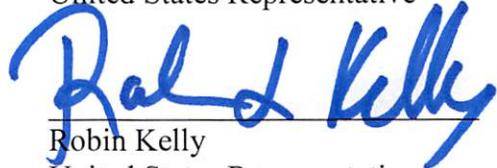
Rodney Davis
United States Representative



Tammy Duckworth
United States Representative



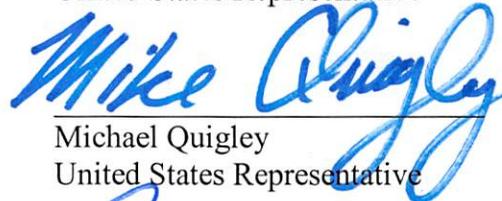
Luis V. Gutierrez
United States Representative



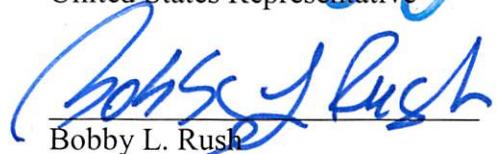
Robin Kelly
United States Representative



Darin LaHood
United States Representative



Michael Quigley
United States Representative



Bobby L. Rush
United States Representative



John Shimkus
United States Representative