Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 21, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write in strong support of Governor Whitmer's request for a Federal Emergency Declaration for the County of Midland and ask that you approve this declaration as soon as possible. Over the last few days, east-central Michigan received 6 to 8 inches of rainfall. This significant rainfall caused the Edenville Dam to fail resulting in an uncontrollable flow of water over the Sanford Dam into the Tittabawassee River. The river has now exceeded 35 ft. for the first time in Michigan history. Residents in Edenville, the Village of Sanford, and parts of the City of Midland, Thomas Township, Tittabawassee Township, Midland Township, Lincoln Township, and Homer Township, were forced to evacuate in the face of this surge. The extreme nature of this flooding comes at the same time as the State is already responding to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

Late on May 19, 2020 Governor Whitmer declared a state of emergency for this area to bring in additional resources from Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan National Guard, Michigan Department of Transportation, and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The Governor's actions come after the County of Midland declared a local state of emergency, activated disaster response and recovery operations, and evacuated and provided shelter to over 400 residents in schools and family centers.

The people of the State of Michigan's Midland County are resilient, and we commend the work of state, and local officials to provide assistance. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure the safety of all those affected by the storms. We urge you to accept the Governor's emergency declaration request and swiftly provide the requested assistance, so the residents and business owners in these communities can begin to recover from this disaster and stay healthy despite the risk of COVID-19. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Senator Debbie Stabenow
/s/ Congressman John Moolenaar
/s/ Member of Congress Fred Upton
/s/ Member of Congress Tim Walberg
/s/ Member of Congress Brenda Lawrence
/s/ Member of Congress Paul Mitchell
/s/ Member of Congress Elissa Slotkin
/s/ Member of Congress Haley M. Stevens

/s/ Senator Gary C. Peters
/s/ Congressman Daniel T. Kildee
/s/ Member of Congress Bill Huizenga
/s/ Member of Congress Debbie Dingell
/s/ Member of Congress Jack Bergman
/s/ Member of Congress Rashida Tlaib
/s/ Member of Congress Andy Levin