

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 20, 2026

The Honorable Cameron Hamilton
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

The Honorable Kelly Loeffler
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
209 3rd Street SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrators Hamilton and Loeffler,

Thank you for your dedication to disaster prevention and response coordination. We write to urge that you grant the State of Ohio's request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to expedite their federal storm damage assessments and potential relief by initiating their damage assessments in Ohio as soon as possible.

Under typical post-disaster procedures, FEMA and SBA conduct their damage assessments only after the state has completed theirs. Existing federal law similarly mandates that both federal and state assessments be completed before a state can request a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, which makes additional damage assistance available to states.

Beginning on August 10, 2026, and continuing for several days thereafter, Ohio was hit with a series of severe storms, resulting in widespread damage across the state. FEMA, SBA, and the state should coordinate their efforts in the damage assessment process to speed up access to potential federal relief. Even today, widespread flooding continues in both rural and urban parts of the state.

We again urge your approval of expedited FEMA and SBA storm damage assessments. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Bernie Moreno
United States Senator



Jon Husted
United States Senator



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress