

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 13, 2025

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

Dear President Trump:

We, the undersigned Members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation, write to respectfully request reconsideration of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) October 22, 2025, denial of Public Assistance (PA) Category F and Individual Assistance (IA) under DR-4880-MI in response to the severe ice storm that struck Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula from March 28-30, 2025.

The unprecedented winter storm brought record levels of snow and freezing rain to thirteen counties – Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Kalkaska, and Mackinac – and one federally recognized tribe – the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB). The storm resulted in severe ice accumulation, widespread destruction to homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure, and left hundreds of thousands of residents without heat or power for extended periods.

While significant recovery progress has been made – thanks to the dedicated efforts of local communities, emergency responders, law enforcement, the Michigan National Guard, and supported in large part by your administration's July 22, 2025, approval of federal disaster aid for many PA categories, including funding for emergency work and certain permanent repairs across the thirteen impacted counties and LTBB – recovery remains far from complete. Without additional federal support and assistance, the remaining unmet costs will inevitably fall on individual households and families across Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula – those least equipped to absorb these costs.

Of particular concern are the significant costs incurred by local electrical cooperatives – costs that, without approval of PA Category F for public utilities, will be passed on to their customers. The extent of the storm's destruction to electrical infrastructure and resulting power outages across the affected counties and LTBB was catastrophic. Nearly 100,000 cooperative customers served by Great Lakes Energy (GLE) and Presque Isle Electric & Gas (PIE&G) experienced power outages lasting between four and twenty days, as damage from the storm forced both cooperatives to rebuild major portions of their systems. Collectively, GLE and PIE&G spent more than \$300 million on restoration and repair efforts.

Without federal assistance, these huge costs will translate into higher rates for cooperative customers across Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula – many of whom are already facing severe economic hardship. Ten of the impacted counties have per-capita incomes lower than that of the State of Michigan, and eleven have per-capita incomes lower than that of the United States. Additionally, eight of the impacted counties have an elevated share of residents that live below the federal poverty line. All thirteen counties also have large numbers of seniors living on fixed incomes and individuals with disabilities – populations who cannot easily adjust their financial circumstances to accommodate looming rate increases. As the winter season rapidly sets in and temperatures drop, the inability of these residents to afford rising energy and heating costs could have life-threatening consequences.

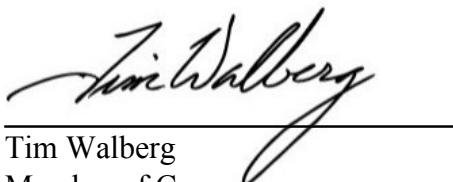
Further, we continue to hear from families and households across the thirteen impacted counties and LTBB who are still struggling to cover basic recovery expenses – whether repairing damage to their homes or clearing debris from their properties. While we are profoundly grateful for the PA already provided to local governments and jurisdictions, individual Michiganders also need help. These are hardworking men and women who take pride in their communities, pay their taxes, and ask for little from their government – yet now face financial burdens that no community should be expected to shoulder alone.

Mr. President, you have consistently shown a commitment to standing up for the ‘little guy’ – the men and women of rural and remote America who too often feel forgotten by Washington. While Michigan’s natural disasters may not draw the same national attention as other disasters across the country, their impact on the lives of those affected is no less severe. The people of Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula are among the toughest and most resilient in the country. They are proud, hardworking Americans who rarely ask for help – but in this moment, they are counting on you and your administration to recognize the hardship brought on by the severe ice storm and stand with them as they continue their recovery efforts.

With these considerations in mind, we respectfully request reconsideration of FEMA’s denial of PA Category F and IA under DR-4880-MI. Please know we stand ready to assist you and your administration to ensure these communities are not forgotten in their time of need.

Sincerely,

  
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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

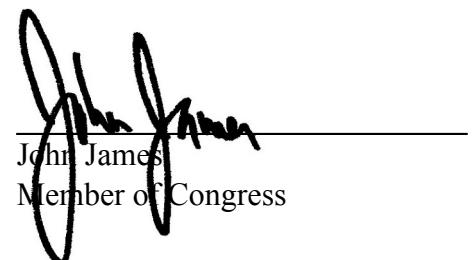
  
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Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

  
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John R. Moolenaar  
Member of Congress

  
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Lisa C. McClain  
Republican Conference  
Chairwoman

  
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Tom Barrett  
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Bill Huizenga  
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John James  
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