

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 2025

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing as the Maryland Congressional Delegation to express our strong support for Maryland Governor Wes Moore's August 19, 2025 appeal of the denial of a federal declaration of a major disaster for the State of Maryland as a result of the impacts of May's historically intense rains and severe flooding. The federal government denied the State of Maryland's request on July 22, 2025. In the months since the Governor's request, an additional \$17.9 million in damages has been identified and verified, bringing the total to \$33.7 million. Given the increased need, and the significant impact that this flooding had on state and local resources in Maryland, we urge you to reconsider this denial, grant the appeal, and approve the provision of supplemental federal assistance, pursuant to the Stafford Act.

The extreme rainfall between May 12 and May 14, 2025 caused Georges Creek to rise more than six feet in the early hours of the event to a near-record level of 12.41 feet, while Will's Creek subsequently rose eight feet and the North Branch of the Potomac River rose nearly 15 feet, and associated flooding devastated several communities and forced evacuations in Allegany and Garrett Counties. This event clearly met disaster assistance criteria established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Flash flooding in the communities of Midland, Lonaconing, Barton, and Westernport resulted in extensive damage to roads and bridges, water and sewer infrastructure, and property.

Emergency Service personnel responded from 24 agencies in nine counties across three states to carry out recovery efforts. EMS units successfully evacuated 200 students and personnel by boats who had been trapped at Westernport Elementary School and provided shelter until they could be picked up by family members. Students from two other schools in Georges Creek were evacuated by EMS units in vehicles to Mountain Ridge High School in Frostburg until they could be picked up by family members. Twelve students remained sheltered at Mountain Ridge overnight into Wednesday morning.

After conducting a coordinated assessment process, FEMA, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, and local officials originally estimated more than \$15.8 million in emergency response costs and damage to infrastructure, including more than 200 homes, numerous businesses, roads and bridges, railroads, sewer systems, drinking water, and public utilities. This estimate exceeds both the county and state thresholds for assistance under the Stafford Act; Allegany County's threshold for FEMA Public Assistance is \$321,460 and Maryland's is \$11,674,953. The updated estimate of \$33.7 million is almost three times over the state threshold.

Individual Assistance and Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments conducted in both Allegany and Garrett Counties found numerous destroyed and damaged structures, including public facilities, schools, public libraries, businesses, and homes. As the new school year begins and winter approaches, we echo the Governor's concerns that without the requested assistance, the most vulnerable in these communities will be directly

impacted. These assessments support the need for the requested declaration and assistance which is necessary and warranted under the Stafford Act.

We urge you to expeditiously review and approve Maryland's appeal and grant a major disaster declaration for the flooding of May 13, 2025. Thank you for your timely consideration of this request, and we look forward to your response.

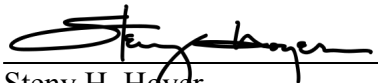
Sincerely,



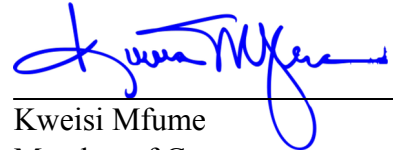
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



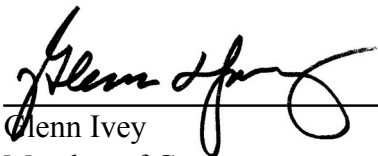
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



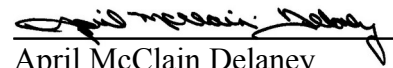
Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



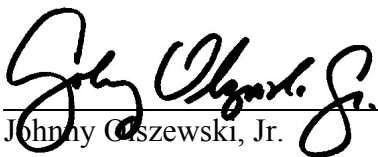
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



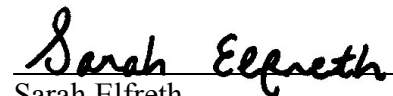
Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress