

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2026

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

Dear President Trump,

We write in strong support of Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe's July 28, 2026, request for a major disaster declaration following the devastating severe storms and flooding that took place in Missouri from July 9th through July 11th of this year.

Beginning late on July 9th, a series of slow-moving thunderstorms produced torrential rainfall in some areas across south-central and southeastern Missouri, equivalent to a 1-in-1,000-year event according to the National Weather Service. In roughly 12 hours, some areas received an estimated 6 to 12 inches of rain, causing rivers, creeks, and low-lying areas to rapidly rise, including a record crest on the Black River near Annapolis, Missouri. Floodwaters overwhelmed campgrounds and farms, washed out critical access routes, and forced emergency crews to evacuate families and children.

Once again, Missouri's first responders more than answered the call of duty. In dark and dangerous conditions, these heroes worked around the clock to evacuate residents and visitors. Due to the intense flooding, this often required complex swift-water and helicopter rescue operations. In the days following, it was publicly reported that first responders bravely rescued over 350 people, including over 200 airlifted from the Camp Taum Sauk by Missouri National Guard helicopters. While the courage of first responders and neighbors saved many lives, the flooding tragically claimed the life of a Missourian and left profound damage across the affected counties.

As you are aware, Missouri has repeatedly been faced with natural disasters in recent years. In 2025 alone, Missouri received five federally declared disasters—the most of any state—and in 2026, this trend has not changed. Today, Missouri is requesting its third disaster declaration of the year, already holding a declaration for storms that occurred from April 23rd through April 28th. To make matters worse, many communities affected by the July storms were still recovering from these previous disasters, compounding losses and stretching local capacity further beyond its limits.

Following the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments for the July 9th through July 11th storms, more than \$26.5 million in eligible infrastructure damage and emergency protective costs were identified across 9 counties. When combined with the cumulative impact of prior events already under federal declaration, Governor Kehoe's request satisfies the criteria for supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act.

As such, we respectfully urge you to direct your administration to promptly review Governor Kehoe's major disaster declaration request for the July 9 through July 11 storms and submit it for your approval. We appreciate your attention to this request and your continued partnership with the State of Missouri in

its times of need. Should any questions arise during your review, our offices stands ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric S. Schmitt".

Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Hawley".

Josh Hawley
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Wagner".

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Smith".

Jason Smith
Member of Congress

CC: Robert J. Fenton, Senior Official Performing the Duties of Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator