



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 3, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Stafford Act Major Disaster Declaration for Major Storm Impacts in Pennsylvania

Dear President Biden,

Last month, on July 9, a major storm struck communities in my district, resulting in evacuations, dangerous rescues, and extensive property damage. The impact of this storm will be felt by residents of Berks County for some time. Because of this, I am asking you to swiftly consider and approve the major disaster declaration request from Governor Shapiro. Your action will direct federal support to our communities who desperately need it.

In the days since this storm tore across Pennsylvania, federal, state, and local officials have taken measure of the significant human and physical damage. The storm produced a historic amount of rain in an unusually short amount of time. It knocked out power for 12,000 customers, caused over 300 road closures, and temporarily closed many local businesses.

As you know, the Stafford Act authorizes you to approve a request from a governor for federal support for recovery efforts outlined in law. We believe that Pennsylvania qualifies for and needs that support. The historic and unprecedented rain and flooding devastated communities in my district – and I ask that you approve Governor Shapiro’s federal relief request as soon as possible.

Pennsylvania’s families and communities need to know that the federal government stands with them now. Thank you for considering this urgent need and request. Please reach out to my District Director Deputy Chief of Staff, Sue Walker, with any questions. She can be reached in our Reading office at 610-295-0815 or Sue.Walker@mail.house.gov. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chrissy Houlahan".

Chrissy Houlahan