



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Northern WI Delegation Urges Governor to Pursue Federal Aid and Additional Funding for State's Disaster Assistance Fund *Offer Their Assistance to Facilitate Rebuilding*

Madison - Today, State Senator Janet Bewley, along with State Representatives Beth Meyers and Nick Milroy sent a letter to Governor Scott Walker urging him to immediately pursue federal aid to help northern communities rebuild after the devastating floods that affected eight counties in Northern Wisconsin. They also asked him to work with the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee to shore up the State's Disaster Assistance Fund, which has an estimated balance of only about \$400,000 not accounting for pending requests totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"The storms that passed through our region were devastating. There was loss of life, loss of property, and profound damage was done to the lifeblood of our region; our local roads. If our roads are impassable, then our economy grinds to a halt. From the total loss in Saxon Harbor to the washed out roads in both directions that left the town of Grand View an island, we need all the help we can get," the lawmakers stated.

The legislators applaud the work already being done by local responders and various State of Wisconsin agency personnel to help address the flooding damage, but noted that additional assistance from the Department of Homeland Security, and Federal Emergency Management Agency would speed up coordination of relief efforts.

"We welcome the Governor's Emergency Declaration and stand ready to help in any way we can," noted Bewley, Meyers and Milroy. ***"We know that there are tough times ahead. Roads and bridges must be rebuilt, homes need to be repaired and replaced. The people who call Northern Wisconsin home are a resilient bunch, but they need help and they need it now."***

The Northern Wisconsin lawmakers are hopeful that Governor Walker will act quickly in accordance with this request and will take all actions necessary within his executive capacity to help during this difficult situation.

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