WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 7882 • MADISON, WI 53707-7882

U.S. Small Business Administration
101 Marietta Street NW, Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 3030-2725

October 5, 2026
Kem R. Fleming
Director of Field Operations and Disaster Recovery
Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience

Dear Mr. Fleming,

On behalf of our constituents and communities, we respectfully ask that you grant the State of Wisconsin's request that the Small Business Administration (SBA) issue a Rapid Disaster Declaration in the Winnebago County disaster area, making low interest loans available to affected property and business owners.

On Monday, July 27, 2026, an EF-3 tornado with maximum winds of approximately 140 mph touched down in Appleton, Wisconsin, before moving through the City of Menasha and the Village of Fox Crossing. The destruction left in its wake was significant. Joint preliminary damage assessments estimated a total of $22 million in damages to residential structures and public sector infrastructure across the state as a result of the tornado and storm system, with verified damage in Winnebago County alone amounting to $13.2 million. Assessments conducted by the SBA, FEMA, state, county, and local staff have determined that damage exceeds the SBA's criteria of at least 25 primary residences and/or small businesses with uninsured losses of 40% or more of their estimated fair replacement value.

Wisconsin has additionally requested that FEMA's Individual Assistance program and Public Assistance program be made available to the affected counties, and the Hazard Mitigation Program be made available statewide. We are awaiting FEMA's decision on the matter.

As state legislators whose constituents were impacted by this storm, we wish to convey the urgent need for a Rapid Disaster Declaration to be issued in the Winnebago County disaster area. The continued collaboration between federal, state, and local officials is necessary to ensure that our constituents have access to the vital resources needed to recover and rebuild their lives.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dean Kaufert

Rep. Dean Kaufert

Sen. Kristin Dassler-Alfheim



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Rep. David Murphy

Sen. André Jacque

Rep. Lori Palmeri

Rep. Lee Snodgrass

Rep. Ron Tusler