

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We write to support Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's request for a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Declaration for DeKalb County, Illinois, as a result of deadly tornadoes that struck the area in April 2015.

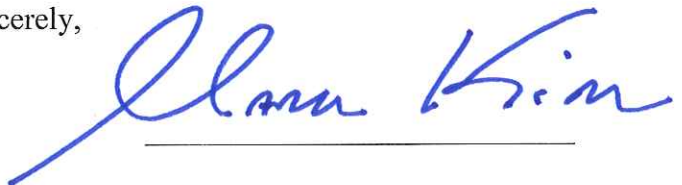
On April 9, a series of tornadoes tore through the north-central part of our state. At least two tornadoes, one a category EF-4 with wind speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, moved through DeKalb and Ogle counties. Severe destruction occurred along the entire tornado path, badly damaging the small towns of Fairdale and Rochelle, Illinois. Sadly, two women in Fairdale lost their lives as a result of the tornadoes.

Preliminary damage assessments indicate that homes, businesses, buildings, trees, utility poles, electrical service, and transportation routes in these counties were harmed by the tornadoes. The economic impact on the community as a result of businesses being destroyed is severe and the demand for state and local government resources for emergency response, debris removal, and the repair of public property is extraordinary. The Governor seeks timely federal assistance from the SBA.

Governor Rauner has determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments. Supplementary federal assistance is necessary. We respectfully request that you issue an SBA Disaster Declaration for DeKalb and Ogle Counties and that the SBA disaster loans be offered to eligible individuals and businesses in the counties that are contiguous to DeKalb and Ogle Counties.

We thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this important request and stand ready to assist in any way appropriate.

Sincerely,



Mike Pringley

Daniel Zimich

Danny A. Davis

Tammy Dickworth

Jens Schelony

Jim

Bill Sost

Gobby Lush

Mal Bond

Rkey Jan

Cher Bustos

Randy Hurley

Ron Kaley

Robert J. Caldwell

Jim V. Latta

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