Dear Governor Walker:

We write today to urge you to act today to make a written request to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for a Disaster Declaration for affected areas of our districts from the recent storms and flooding. It is our understanding that SBA cannot make their emergency programs available until either a Presidential Declaration is made for either individual assistance (FEMA) or public assistance (SBA) or a gubernatorial disaster declaration is made.

The recent 500-year events that have occurred around our state have hit our districts particularly hard. People are suffering, and are unsure of how they will come out of what has occurred. It is the duty of our state to help them as they make their ways through this nightmare.

We understand the need for thorough data collection for the FEMA designation, but feel the general criteria for the SBA Gubernatorial designation of at least 23 homes, businesses or other eligible institutions having sustained uninsured losses of 40 percent or more has clearly been met. Please make the disaster designation for the SBA to at least allow the SBA to begin talking with people about their programs and help that might be available.

We would ask that Dane, Green, Iowa, Rock and Sauk Counties be included in the Declaration.

We would also request that the Administration find funds to help deeply affected homeowners and communities. There are a number of fire departments in our districts that face serious financial situations to repair their buildings and to get their vehicles and equipment back up and running. In many situations, loans are not going to be the panacea for these entities. They are in need of grant opportunities. We implore your administration to make funding available to them.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

JON ERPENBACH  
State Senator  
27th District

FRED RISSER  
State Senator  
26th District

JANIS RINGHAND  
State Senator  
15th District
DAVE CONSIDINE  
State Representative  
81st District

THERESE BERCEAU  
State Representative  
77th District

DEBRA KOLSTE  
State Representative  
44th District

DIANNE HESSELBEIN  
State Representative  
79th District

LISA SUBECK  
State Representative  
78th District

MARK SPREITZER  
State Representative  
45th District

SONDY POPE  
State Representative  
80th District

CHRIS TAYLOR  
State Representative  
76th District

DON VRUWINK  
State Representative  
43rd District

JE.tk

Cc: Local Elected Officials