



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BUSTOS' REQUEST FOR FEMA DISASTER DECLARATION APPROVED

WASHINGTON – Today, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved Congresswoman Bustos' request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Illinois, which triggers the release of federal funds to communities impacted by severe storms and flooding between February 24 and July 3, 2019. Twenty-seven counties in Illinois are now eligible to apply for Public Assistance (PA) program grants so far.

Eligible counties include: Adams, Alexander, Bureau, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Fulton, Greene, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Jackson, Jersey, Knox, Madison, Mercer, Monroe, Morgan, Pike, Randolph, Rock Island, Schuyler, Scott, St. Clair, Stephenson, Union and Whiteside.

“Throughout 2019, communities have felt the devastation of severe storms and record flooding across Illinois and our Congressional District,” **Congresswoman Bustos said**. “I’m pleased that many counties are eligible for the funding they need. It is my hope that additional Illinois counties will be included in the declaration in the coming days and weeks in order to provide relief to all of those impacted by this unprecedented weather.”

BACKGROUND

Under the PA program, FEMA awards grants to assist state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations with the recovery from disasters. Local jurisdictions can be reimbursed for up to 75 percent of eligible costs according to the PA program. The program can provide funding for debris removal, implementation of emergency protective measures and permanent restoration of infrastructure. The program also encourages protection from future damage by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process. The State of Illinois will work with FEMA to manage the program and administer the funding.

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker has also directed the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to work with affected areas not covered by this federal disaster declaration to explore all available options to help them in the wake of this disaster. This could include further damage evaluations, appealing the federal denial or identifying other funding sources.