

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

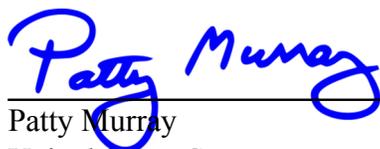
As members of the Washington state delegation, we write in support of Washington state's February 17 request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance due to devastating flood damages incurred from December 5 through 22. We implore you to approve the request for assistance as quickly as possible. The surge of rain in Washington state strained the state's aging infrastructure, resulting in several levee breaches, leaving residents vulnerable to dangerous floods. In the middle of the night, residents of the city of Pacific were forced to quickly evacuate after a levee failed along the White River. While state and county officials have worked quickly to reinforce the breached sections, these are short-term solutions that leave our communities at risk of future extreme weather events.

An initial damage assessment revealed extensive and widespread damage to critical infrastructure and local economies. Highway 2, one of the two major year-round connections between eastern and western Washington state through the Cascade Mountains, suffered several washouts of the roadway which temporarily closed access along the corridor. Extensive repairs led by the Washington State Department of Transportation allowed for a partial reopening, but 14 miles of the highway in Tumwater Canyon will remain closed for months. The only available local detour has been reduced to one-lane due to slope failures, and any cross-state detour to I-90 would add several hours per trip. Thousands of residents and businesses call the Highway 2 corridor home and are negatively impacted by the damage of these storms, not to mention the hundreds of farmers and producers that rely on Highway 2 as a gateway to access the seaports along Puget Sound.

This extreme weather event has put significant stress on Washington state's infrastructure, emergency response teams, and communities across the state. Throughout this crisis, state, local, Tribal, and federal first responders have stepped up and worked tirelessly to keep our communities secure. We are incredibly grateful for their diligent work and careful coordination to keep Washingtonians safe and informed throughout this disaster.

We reiterate our full support for the February 17 request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance. We appreciate you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Michael Baumgartner
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress