

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 2, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to support Illinois Governor JB Pritzker's request for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for eligible counties in Illinois, as a result of the significant damage done to crops by ongoing flooding since March 2019.

Since March, flooding resulting from excessive rainfall and rising river levels have caused significant damage or delays to Illinois crops. This season has been the second-wettest spring on record for Illinois—and the wettest in 30 years—with the State receiving 16.36 inches through late May. Farmers in Illinois have experienced serious delays with completing the planting of their crops. For example, since late May, Illinois farmers have experienced several weeks with less than 2.5 days that were suitable for fieldwork. Earlier this month, the USDA released a report stating that “due to continued wet conditions, corn and soybean planting progress are over 50 percentage points behind the 5-year average.” The report also shows that 53 percent of the corn crop and 73 percent of the State's winter wheat were in poor to fair condition. Crop yields in affected areas are projected to be considerably lower this year. The Governor seeks timely federal assistance from the USDA.

Governor Pritzker has determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary. On behalf of affected Illinois farmers, we respectfully request that you issue a Secretarial Disaster Declaration and that USDA disaster loans and emergency funding be offered to eligible counties that have been hurt by these catastrophic weather events.

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

Sincerely,



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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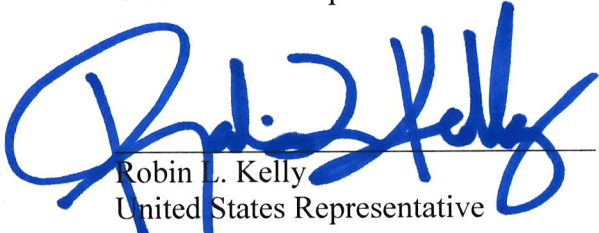
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Mike Quigley  
United States Representative



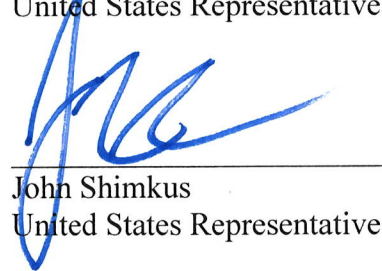
Sean Casten  
United States Representative



Robin L. Kelly  
United States Representative



Daniel W. Lipinski  
United States Representative



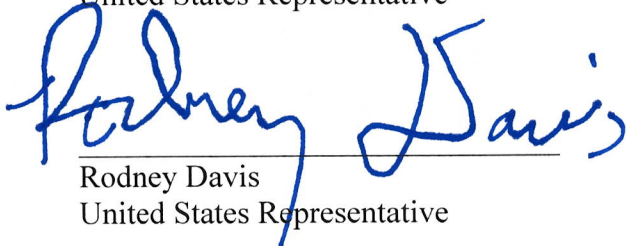
John Shimkus  
United States Representative



Lauren Underwood  
United States Representative



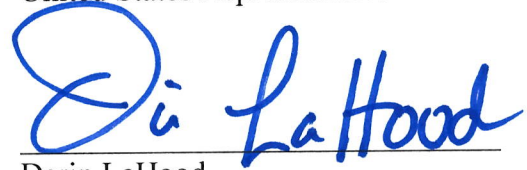
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
United States Representative



Rodney Davis  
United States Representative



Bobby L. Rush  
United States Representative



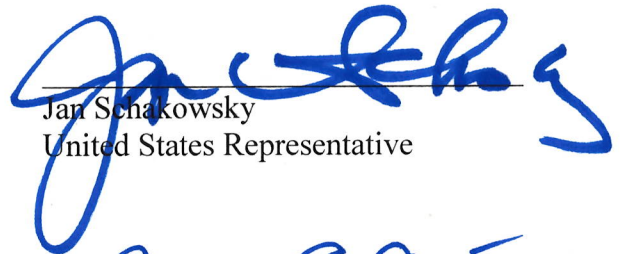
Darin LaHood  
United States Representative



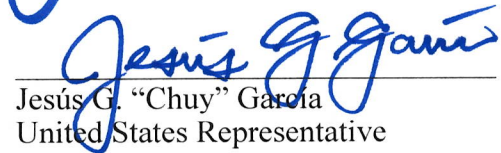
Bradley S. Schneider  
United States Representative



Adam Kinzinger  
United States Representative



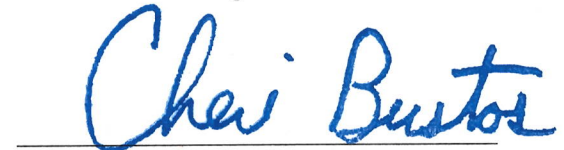
Jan Schakowsky  
United States Representative



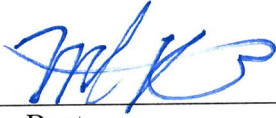
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
United States Representative



Bill Foster  
United States Representative

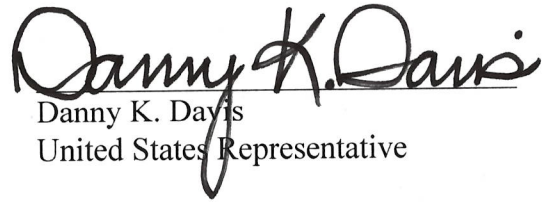


Cheri Bustos  
United States Representative



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Mike Bost  
United States Representative



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Danny K. Davis  
United States Representative