

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

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The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am extremely disappointed in FEMA's decision to deny the federal major disaster declaration request for the Ohio counties of Wood, Fulton, and Ottawa that were affected by the recent tornados. As I am sure you are aware, Governor Strickland is appealing this decision. In order to assist local and state governments with the appeal process, I am requesting that FEMA provide me with a copy of the written formulas that were used in the evaluation process for this specific disaster. This information is imperative to help individuals, governmental entities and volunteer organizations know what information, or lack thereof, was used to establish FEMA's decision that these counties did not meet the necessary criteria.

For an area that is already struggling in this economic downturn, and has been extremely hard hit with high unemployment, the impact caused by these storms is overwhelming. I believe that this appeal is very important especially since items might have been missed in the funding calculations. The information needs to be supplied so that the appeal can be successful. This disaster was extremely severe for these communities, and it is not feasible for the local and state governments to be able to assist individuals to the needed extent with the incredible damage caused to their homes and businesses.

As these small rural communities struggle to put their lives, homes, and businesses back together, I respectfully ask that you instruct FEMA to expedite the review process of this appeal and grant the declaration. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or would like to speak with me personally regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 225-6405.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

REL/ahw

Cc: Andrew Velasquez III, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region V