



IOWA
CONGRESSMAN
TOM LATHAM

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

August 5, 2011

The Honorable Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

Earlier today, I was advised of the FEMA denial of federal assistance to Iowa victims of the flooding along the Missouri River. The denial pertains to requested assistance to residents of Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury Counties, under the Federal Individual Assistance Program.

I share the governor's frustration and disappointment at this decision as the level of damage from this flooding, and the havoc wreaked in the lives of citizens in Western Iowa, is self-evident. I am advised that the governor will appeal this decision, at the appropriate time, based on updated and new information on the damage as it becomes available. As you are aware, the flooding continues and new damage will continue to be uncovered. In this context, I strongly urge you to grant Governor Branstad complete flexibility in his efforts to update your Agency, including appropriate extensions.

In many ways, Iowans are still recovering from the 2008 Midwest floods and the impacts of numerous recent storms. The impacts of these disasters on the people, communities and businesses of the state will not go away anytime soon. While I understand the "process" under which FEMA must operate, it is extremely important that FEMA personnel work side-by-side with Iowa emergency management officials, if requested by the Governor, so that damage assessment procedures are carried out with all of the assistance at the command of your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Latham". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Latham
Member of Congress