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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4606

August 11, 2020

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I write to offer my assistance and support as the State responds to the damage in Iowa caused by the severe storms on Monday.

My heart goes out to communities hit by the storms and I thank our brave first responders as well as our utility workers for their fast work to help those affected. Helping others is at the core of our values as Iowans and I commend their efforts. Unfortunately, based on the damage that I have seen, it is clear there may be a difficult recovery ahead for some Iowa families and businesses, especially in the eastern part of our state.

As Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management continues to survey the damage, I ask that you keep me informed of the situation on the ground and what will be needed to help make our communities whole. As those damage assessments move forward, please inform my office of the timeline for their completion as well as the timeline for any state disaster declaration for affected communities which could open up state-based assistance, in addition to what those assessments find with respect to ongoing unmet needs. I also ask that you share any plans for state active duty of the Iowa National Guard and their role in support of ongoing response efforts, including removing debris and restoring power.

Lastly, please let me know what is needed to protect public health and safety at this time; specifically, how we will prevent COVID-19 exposure among first responders, emergency personnel, and Iowans in need. Undoubtedly, the ongoing pandemic stands to complicate procedures for emergency shelters and food service. I understand that more resources may be required to ensure the safety and efficiency of these operations, such as equipment for COVID-19 testing and screening symptoms.

I stand ready to partner with your office to deliver for our state. Please contact Steffanie Bezruki in my office with any questions at steffanie.bezruki@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress