

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 20, 2016

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

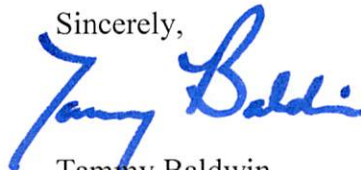
Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing to urge you to issue a Secretarial Disaster Declaration for Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties in Wisconsin, which were impacted by severe storms and subsequent flooding this summer.

Severe storms on July 11-12 and 21 caused devastating flooding and damage throughout northern Wisconsin. Many fields in Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties were flooded or saturated for extended periods of time during the growing season, damaging row crops, alfalfa and specialty crops. The President has issued a major disaster declaration and Governor Walker has requested assistance for producers in these three counties. Producers impacted by these unexpected damages are already coping with low market prices and the strains they place on farmers' ability to operate through major losses. Therefore, I ask that you make disaster assistance available as quickly as possible to Wisconsin farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator