

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 11, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We write to urge you to expeditiously approve Emergency Relief (ER) program funding requested by the State of Washington to make emergency repairs to roadways and address damage caused by this week's severe storms.

On December 9, 2015, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency for all counties in Washington state as a result of a series of severe storms and hazardous weather conditions that occurred from November 30 through December 8. Heavy rainfall and strong winds have caused major flooding, saturated soils, landslides, mudslides, downed trees and power lines, stream bank and slope erosion, flying debris, standing water, and washouts.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is responding to more than 25 separate instances of blocked or damaged roadways across 13 counties due to this extreme weather, forcing our constituents to use alternate routes and detours. In some extreme cases, mudslides and flooding have completely isolated individual homes and neighborhoods. Interstate-5 (I-5) Northbound, approximately 20 miles north of Vancouver, was blocked by mudslide and debris for a day; and WSDOT was only able to open two lanes yesterday. In addition, the northbound I-5 off-ramp to Kalama (exit 30) remains closed due to flooding. U.S. Route 2 near Leavenworth remains closed due to a mudslide, and may reopen soon, and U.S. Route 2 has been reduced to one lane in both directions west of Stevens Pass due to another mudslide. A washout on both sides of White Pass on U.S. Route 12 has closed this section of roadway indefinitely and an extended closure is expected. In all, more than 15 closures have been cleared or reopened by WSDOT's diligent road crews and at least seven state routes remain closed.

WSDOT estimates repairs to these roadways could reach at least \$5 million, and the State of Washington has already requested \$3 million in quick release ER funding to begin work immediately. We urge you to grant the State of Washington's ER funding request as quickly as possible to ensure our constituents have safe and uninterrupted access to these critical roadways.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



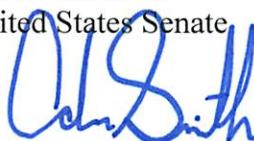
Patty Murray
United States Senate



Maria Cantwell
United States Senate



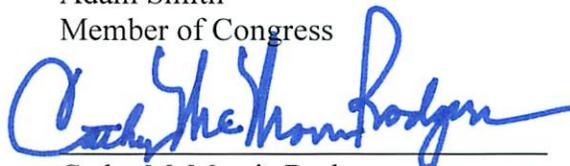
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



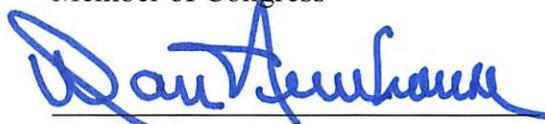
Suzan DelBene
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Benjamin Franklin

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