



*****URGENT REQUEST*****

August 8, 2024

Mike DeWine
Governor
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

We are respectfully writing to strongly urge you to immediately issue a proclamation declaring a state of emergency across Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Lorain Counties which were impacted by a severe weather system on Tuesday, August 6th, 2024. In addition, we are requesting you to request FEMA Damage Assessment Teams to survey the impacted areas.

On Tuesday afternoon, a severe weather system swept through Northeast Ohio including instances of tornadic activity, high gusts of winds and severe thunderstorms. The National Weather Service confirmed two tornados had touched down in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties. An EF-1 tornado touched down at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday in Avon Lake in Lorain County and lifted at 3:56 p.m. in Rocky River in Cuyahoga County. Peak winds of this tornado were 110 mph. A second EF-1 tornado was confirmed to have touched down at 3:59 p.m. in Brook Park and traveled for 17 miles into Bedford Heights in Cuyahoga County.

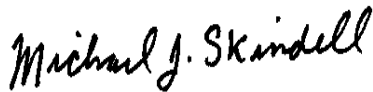
This storm system left behind significant damage impacting local communities. A portion of the roof of the Brook Park Recreation Center was torn off, and extensive damage to trees, homes, businesses, motor vehicles, and utility infrastructure has been reported. In addition, the electric utility company FirstEnergy reported nearly 470K customers in northeast Ohio lost power. Additionally, it has been reported that as of Wednesday, August 8th, more than 300K customers will remain without power and the utility companies do not anticipate power restoration to many until August 14th. Power remains out for residential customers in Cuyahoga County, many of which include elderly and disabled residents. Businesses, including grocery stores and restaurants, anticipate significant losses due to Tuesday's severe storm.

Ongoing recovery services are necessary from state departments and agencies to assist the impacted counties and local communities in alleviating the consequences of this storm system. It is imperative that all relevant state departments and agencies lend their services, equipment, supplies, and personnel as necessary to assist in the response and recovery efforts.


Accordingly, we are requesting you to exercise your constitutional and statutory powers to provide all available resources to respond to the damages caused by Tuesday's severe storm and provide assistance to local communities.

Your urgent action is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



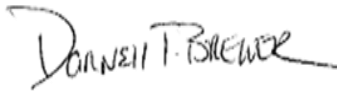
Michael J. Skindell
State Representative
House District 13



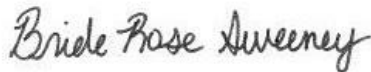
Nickie J. Antonio
Senate Minority Leader
Senate District 23



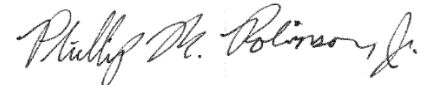
Kent Smith
Senate Minority Whip
Senate District 21



Darnell T. Brewer
State Representative
House District 18



Bride Rose Sweeney
State Representative
House District 16



Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.
State Representative
House District 19



Juanita O. Brent
State Representative
House District 22



Sean Patrick Brennan
State Representative
House District 14



Terrence Upchurch
State Representative
House District 20



Richard Dell'Aquila
State Representative
House District 15



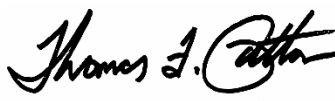
Elliot Forhan
State Representative
House District 21



Joe Miller
State Representative
House District 53



Daniel P. Troy
State Representative
House District 23



Thomas F. Patton
State Representative
House District 17