

January 23, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of Washington state's cities and towns, we write to urge the federal government to act swiftly on Governor Bob Ferguson's request for a major disaster declaration in response to the unprecedented flooding across Washington state from December 5-22, 2025.

Nearly 4,000 homes were deeply affected by the storm, and more than 11% of those homes were severely damaged or destroyed. The magnitude of this disaster requires federal action to support recovery efforts from these historic floods.

These catastrophic storms displaced more than 100,000 people, including the residents of two entire cities that were evacuated. Approximately 400,000 families and individuals lost power for a significant period of time. The storm also had catastrophic consequences for our business community, the immense economic impact of which is still being calculated.

More than 25 cities experienced major local impacts, including the cities of Everson, Sumas, Nooksack, and Ferndale, where significant portions of the city and residents' homes were underwater. Everson's city wastewater treatment plant was forced to shut down for days. Nooksack and Sumas experienced water treatment plant closure impacts, along with biohazards from the Everson plant's overflow upstream from the cities. Everson and Sumas city fire stations flooded, and Everson City Hall flooded and currently remains closed, reducing service capacity during the city's recovery.

The cities of Kent, Auburn, Tukwila, Renton, Maple Valley, and Pacific also experienced widespread flooding of homes and businesses, along with overwhelmed stormwater systems that rendered many residential and heavy commercial roadways impassable for days. More than 200 households in the City of Pacific were flooded, with 600 residents evacuating their homes and overwhelming local shelter capacity.

The Town of Concrete went under townwide evacuation orders, and the nearby cities of Hamilton, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, and Mount Vernon all experienced heavy flooding and mudslides, along with inundated homes and neighborhoods. Further south, the cities of Monroe and Sultan evacuated residents due to flooding. Issaquah, Bellevue, Carnation, and Duvall also experienced significant street flooding.

The storm was statewide in reach. In Eastern Washington, the cities of Leavenworth and Benton City also experienced flooding and wastewater treatment shutdowns affecting thousands of residents. Southwest

Washington saw storm flooding, major road closures, and wastewater impacts in the cities of Kalama and Chehalis.

It is essential that the people and businesses harmed in Washington receive help. Despite a budget shortfall, Washington's state government is contributing as much as its resources allow. Washington's Governor and Legislature have directed \$3.5 million in state emergency funds to provide immediate relief, which includes \$1 million in direct aid to more than 2,600 households. While this is greatly appreciated as a start toward fulfilling recovery needs, we need your help.

There are two crucial federal actions we need to help the people and businesses of Washington. We respectfully ask you and your administration to approve:

- A major disaster declaration; and
- The rapid release of individual assistance.

Eleven counties and 15 Native tribes have partnered with our cities and towns to make this request alongside the Governor and four caucuses of the Washington State Legislature. We appreciate your partnership and attention to this issue. Your leadership is essential to the recovery of our residents and local economies severely affected by this disaster.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deanna Dawson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deanna Dawson
CEO
Association of Washington Cities

Cc: Acting Administrator FEMA, Region 10, Vincent Maykovich
Washington Governor Bob Ferguson
James Baumgart, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Washington Military Department