

February 19, 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's cities and towns, we write to respectfully request your support of Washington state's February 18 request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance in response to the unprecedented flood damage from December 5-22, 2025.

The magnitude of this disaster requires federal action to support recovery from these statewide historic floods. The surge of rain overwhelmed our aging infrastructure. In fact, this flooding was Washington state's most costly public infrastructure disaster in more than 40 years. Our roads, bridges, levees, dikes, water treatment plants, and government buildings sustained \$182.3 million worth of damage.

More than 30 cities experienced major local impacts. In the City of Pacific, residents were forced to quickly evacuate in the middle of the night when the levee failed along the White River. Local officials worked quickly to reinforce the breached sections as a short-term solution, but this leaves our communities at risk during future extreme weather events. In the cities of Bellingham, Everson, Sumas, Nooksack, and Ferndale, significant portions of the city and residents' homes were underwater. Everson's wastewater treatment plant was forced to shut down for days. The closure also impacted Nooksack and Sumas via the biohazards resulting from the Everson plant's overflow upstream. Everson and Sumas city fire stations flooded, and Everson City Hall flooded and currently remains closed, reducing service capacity during the city's recovery.

Widespread flooding of homes and businesses occurred in the cities of Kent, Auburn, Tukwila, Renton, and Maple Valley, along with overwhelmed stormwater systems that rendered many residential and heavy commercial roadways impassable for days. The Town of Concrete was under a townwide evacuation order, and the nearby cities of Hamilton, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, Oak Harbor, and Mount Vernon all experienced heavy flooding, mudslides, inundated homes and neighborhoods, and damaged infrastructure. Further south, the cities of Monroe and Sultan evacuated residents due to flooding. Issaquah, Mercer Island, Bellevue, Carnation, and Duvall also experienced significant street and infrastructure flooding.

The storm was statewide in reach. In Central Washington, the cities of Leavenworth, Granger, Cashmere, and Benton City and the Town of Naches also experienced flooded infrastructure affecting thousands of residents.

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

This extreme weather event put significant stress on Washington's infrastructure, emergency response teams, and cities across the state. Throughout this crisis, state, local, Tribal, and federal first responders stepped up and worked tirelessly to keep our communities secure. We are incredibly grateful for their diligent work and careful coordination to keep Washingtonians safe and informed throughout this disaster.

We have partnered in 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 infrastructure severely affected by this disaster.

We implore you to approve the February 18 request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance as quickly as possible. We would appreciate your prompt attention to this urgent issue.

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: Katherine W. Kaye, White House
Governor Bob Ferguson, Washington
Brian Hyer, Department of Homeland Security
Patricia Pudwill, FEMA
Aubree Sepler, FEMA