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January 24, 2008

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The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing in support of Governor Mitch Daniels' request for federal disaster assistance as a result of the damage from flooding earlier this month in Northern Indiana. The Governor has requested federal help to alleviate the impact of the storm and its after-effects in which over 800 homes were damaged, 400 of which sustained major damage or were destroyed.

Damage from severe flooding began on January 8 as the result of a rapid snow melt caused by record warm temperatures. The snow had collected from several December storms and the volume of water it created by melting was too much for the rivers to handle. In some areas residents have had to evacuate twice because of water levels and huge ice jams, in one case up to a mile in length that caused additional threats to life and property.

The magnitude of this storm has left many families without homes, caused damage to businesses and to local infrastructure. As someone who grew up along the Tippecanoe River, I know the devastating harm that water can cause when you have a historic flood like the one that swallowed that river, the Kankakee River, and other waterways.

Please know that local officials and emergency response agencies did an outstanding job to protect life and property. FEMA officials were on the ground shortly after the incident began, continue to assess the damage, and have remained in constant contact with my office as well as State and local officials.

At one time or another I have represented eight of the nine counties that were affected. Currently, I represent parts of White County and Tippecanoe County. These are proud people who work hard and do not look to the federal government first for assistance. However, due to the devastating nature of the storms and flooding, federal help is needed. I look forward to working with the State and my colleagues in Congress to make the case for federal assistance for the flood victims.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Buyer".

Steve Buyer
Member of Congress

SB/tw