

Klobuchar, Franken, Ellison urge President to expedite disaster declaration for tornado and storm-damage

Written by

Wednesday, 01 June 2011 15:20

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken and Representative Keith Ellison sent a letter to President Obama urging him to quickly issue a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Anoka and Hennepin Counties that suffered severe tornado and storm damage last weekend. A federal preliminary damage assessment found the storm caused over \$16 million in damage to public infrastructure, as well as additional widespread damage to homes and businesses in the area.

“Given the degree of damage to these areas of our state, we strongly encourage you to issue such a declaration in an expedited manner and allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin to supplement state and local recovery efforts in these communities,” the members wrote in the letter.

The storm produced heavy rain, large hail, and a tornado that tore through neighborhoods in North Minneapolis and Anoka County. The tornado produced winds up to 110 miles per hour and the damage length was 14.25 miles and approximately one-half mile at the widest point. To date, the storm has caused two fatalities and 47 injuries. As many as 27,000 residents were without power during the storm, and 2,760 residents still remained without power four days after the storm.

On Monday, May 23 Klobuchar, Ellison, and Governor Mark Dayton surveyed the damage and spoke to residents impacted by the storm. Dayton has requested Public Assistance for impacted areas as well as Individual Assistance for residents in Hennepin County.