

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Richard Glick
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Administrator Regan and Chairman Glick:

We write to ask the EPA and FERC to assist several Michigan communities that are still recovering from damages following catastrophic dam failures last year. Repairing the dams and restoring the affected lakes to pre-flood levels in these communities is estimated to cost hundreds of millions of dollars. This cost would be an onerous burden on the communities and individual property owners that are still recovering from this catastrophic flooding.

In May 2020, severe precipitation in mid-Michigan caused both the Edenville and Sanford Dams along the Tittabawassee River to fail. The breaches led to widespread flooding downstream, destroying homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure across five counties. In total, the disaster impacted over 3,700 properties, resulting in \$190 million in private damages and another \$55 million in public damages and response costs. On June 10, 2020, FEMA approved Michigan's request for a major disaster declaration for Arenac, Gladwin, Iosco, Midland, and Saginaw counties to aid recovery efforts.

In the wake of this disaster, the previous owner of the dams – Boyce Hydro Power – filed for bankruptcy protection. In December, the property rights to both the Edenville and Sanford Dams as well as the neighboring Secord and Smallwood Dams were acquired by Midland and Gladwin County. This occurred through the Four Lakes Task Force, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves as the Delegated Authority to administer and oversee the restoration, maintenance, and operation of the dams and lakes.

We ask the EPA and FERC to provide assistance and support to these local officials, stakeholders, and the state of Michigan as they move forward to repair and restore the dams.

Sincerely,

/s/ Debbie Stabenow

DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters

GARY C. PETERS
United States Senator

/s/ John Moolenaar

JOHN MOOLENAAR
Member of Congress

/s/ Daniel T. Kildee

DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress

/s/ Debbie Dingell

DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress

/s/ Brenda L. Lawrence

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress