Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 9, 2008

The Honorable Edward T. Schafer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Schafer:

We are writing to express our strong support for Governor Daniels' request for disaster assistance for counties in Indiana due to damage to one or more crops and loss and significant harm to livestock resulting from severe storms, tornados, torrential rainfall, and flash flooding that began on May 30, 2008 and is continuing. We support the request for federal assistance for the following counties:

Adams	Bartholomew	Benton
Boone	Brown	Carroll
Clay	Daviess	Dearborn
Decatur	Elkhart	Franklin
Fulton	Greene	Hancock
Henry	Huntington	Jackson
Jennings	Jefferson	Johnson
Lagrange	Lawrence	Madison
Marion	Miami	Morgan
Monroe	Newton	Ohio
Owen	Randolph	Ripley
Rush	Shelby	Sullivan
Tippecanoe	Union	Vermillion
Vigo	Wabash	Warrick
Wayne	White	

Severe weather including tornadoes, heavy rain, wind, and flooding has caused substantial damage to crops, livestock, and farm property. Estimates indicate that the flooding in parts of the State of Indiana is the most severe in recorded history, exceeding record 1913 levels.

Agriculture is a critical component of the economy in the State of Indiana. Federal disaster assistance, including emergency assistance loans from the Farm Service Agency, would help alleviate the hardship facing our communities.

We appreciate your serious consideration and look forward to working with you to ensure that those affected by this disaster receive appropriate federal assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator

Evan Bayh
United States Senator

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

Steve Buyer
Member of Congress

Mark Souder
Member of Congress

Mike Pence
Member of Congress

Baron Hill
Member of Congress

Brad Ellsworth
Member of Congress

Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress