March 25th, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
George W. Romney Building
111 S Capitol Ave
P.O.Box 48909
Lansing, MI 4809

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I am writing to urge you to request a Major Disaster Declaration from President Donald J. Trump and federal disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to supplement Michigan's efforts to fight the COVID-19 virus.

42 U.S.C. §§5127-5207 states that only the governor of an affected state can request a major disaster declaration by the President.

Michigan has 2,295 coronavirus cases, the fifth most of any state in the country. 43 people have already died. We all acknowledge that more people will test positive for COVID-19 in the coming days. It is clear that because of the severity of the coronavirus epidemic in our state, Michigan needs federal assistance to effectively respond.

President Trump has already declared major disasters in 5 other states. But he cannot declare one here in Michigan unless our state makes a formal request for a major disaster declaration.

Please work with President Trump's administration and take advantage of all of resources he is making available to the states.

Sincerely,

Matt Hall
State Representative
District 63