



Secures Funding for the
SAFEGUARDING TOMORROW THROUGH
ONGOING RISK MITIGATION (STORM) Act
in Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

U.S. Senator Gary Peters fought for and secured \$500 million over 5 years for the *STORM Act* in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* that passed the Senate. Peters previously authored the *STORM Act*, which was signed into law in January 2021. It created this new program, which provides support for local communities facing rising water levels, coastal erosion and funding that have put homes, small businesses, property, and communities at risk, and caused millions of dollars in damages.

Q: What does Senator Peters' STORM Act do?

- Peters' *STORM Act* amends the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* to grant the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) authority to work with states and Indian tribal governments to establish revolving loan funds for mitigation. The revolving loan funds will be used by local governments to carry out projects that reduce natural disaster risk, including shoreline erosion, flooding and high water level.

Q: What's the significance of this funding?

- Resilience and mitigation spending saves taxpayers more than \$6 for every \$1 invested. But the majority of current disaster relief programs focus on post-disaster response, rather than pre-disaster mitigation, preparation, and resilience. Planning ahead to prevent serious disruptions when a disaster strikes will reduce risks to people, property, and save taxpayer dollars.

Q: How do the revolving loan funds work?

- Unlike existing FEMA mitigation grants, the *STORM Act's* revolving loan funds will allow states to directly offer low-interest loans to counties and cities for mitigation projects to help reduce loss of life and property, without going through the federal grant application process.
- The loans will reach communities more quickly than other available grants and will provide an additional tool to meet the growing need to address mitigation. Loan repayment will provide states with a growing fund that they can use to continually improve resilience.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.peters.senate.gov/>



U.S. SENATOR GARY PETERS

Q: What will this funding mean for Michigan?

- The revolving loan funds will allow Michigan to prioritize funding to mitigation projects that are most important to Michiganders, rather than having the federal government make those decisions.
- The funds allow Michigan to target projects in areas where we've seen major impacts from disasters, such as flooding in Southeast Michigan, and shoreline erosion and high water levels that have destroyed beaches, property and homes.
- This flexibility will allow the state to focus on protecting vulnerable communities, which have been hit particularly hard by recent extreme weather events.

Q: What types of projects will be eligible for these loans?

- Projects to help address flooding, building codes, shoreline erosion, and severe winter storms are all eligible. This could include reinforcing seawalls, improving stormwater drainage systems, and other projects that are not eligible under other grant programs.
- Additionally, the *STORM* Act authorizes projects that reduce disaster risks to homeowners, nonprofits and businesses, allowing for on-the-ground targeted investments in vulnerable areas that may not have received funding from other grant programs in the past.
- The law requires an annual mitigation plan from states that must go through a public comment period. This will allow a whole of community approach to mitigation, ensuring that interested stakeholders and Michiganders can have their voices heard on how the state will administer these funds.

Q: What are next steps to accessing this funding?

- As FEMA begins to establish the capitalization grant program for the *STORM* Act, states, local governments, and community stakeholders should begin working together to identify and prioritize mitigation projects with the greatest need of funding.