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## WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

Representative Rick Larsen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2026

Dear Representative Larsen:

Whatcom County Council writes to express our strong gratitude to you and your staff for your support of Whatcom County families and local governments in the wake of two devastating floods in November 2021 and December 2025. We appreciate your work with FEMA to issue Major Disaster Declarations for both floods and your ongoing efforts to strengthen the federal government's response and recovery programs to support communities such as those in Whatcom County which are facing the prospect of greater and more frequent flood events.

We were thrilled to hear that your outreach to Acting FEMA Administrator Evans resulted in the March 5, 2026 disbursement of stalled Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds to support the elevation of 16 homes in Whatcom County. As you know, these projects date back to the 2021 flood and are critical to families in Everson, Ferndale, and Sumas who have been waiting for more than four years to receive this federal aid needed to protect their homes from future flooding impacts. These projects will increase flood resiliency for property owners and allow families to stay in their communities for years to come.

We appreciate your continued assistance in pressing FEMA on our additional grant request to acquire flood-prone properties for the conservation of natural floodplain functions. Both projects are important steps in advancing flood resiliency in Whatcom County.

Finally, thank you for your personal boots-on-the-ground response to Whatcom County's flooding emergencies. Having a strong federal partner who understands our communities sends a meaningful message to families who have experienced repeated emotional distress and financial strain due to flooding. We hear repeatedly from these flood-impacted communities that their ties to their neighbors and their communities are so strong that they would not want to live anywhere else, and your work on flood recovery and mitigation is allowing these families to rebuild and recover while remaining in their communities. Your tireless advocacy for federal investment in flood infrastructure and your work to secure federal dollars and investment for disaster prevention and assistance has been crucial as we strive to strengthen flood resiliency for Whatcom County communities.

Thank you for being a stalwart partner in our recovery efforts.

Sincerely,

Kaylee Galloway, Chair  
Whatcom County Council