

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

TAFT REQUESTS FEDERAL AID FOR SIX OHIO COUNTIES

*Presidential Declaration would provide additional financial assistance
for northern Ohio victims*

COLUMBUS (June 30, 2006) – Governor Bob Taft today sent a letter to President George W. Bush requesting a major disaster declaration for six counties that suffered damages as a result of severe storms with flooding and high winds, which occurred June 21 - 22, 2006. Counties under this request are Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas, Sandusky and Stark.

“I applaud the efforts made by the communities of northern Ohio to recover from June’s severe weather,” Taft said. “Given the severity and magnitude of damage, we need federal assistance to help Ohio families and businesses recover from this disaster.”

Governor Taft issued state declarations of emergency for Cuyahoga, Erie and Huron counties on June 24, Lucas and Stark counties on June 27, and Sandusky County on June 30, 2006. From June 27-29, 2006 joint local, state and federal agencies surveyed damages in the six counties. Preliminary assessments of homes and businesses from the impacted counties indicate the following:

DESTROYED	MAJOR	MINOR	AFFECTED
25	317	1,064	3,262

Taft is requesting Individual Assistance to include the Individuals and Households Program (IHP); Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance (ONA); Disaster Unemployment Assistance; Disaster Legal Services; Crisis Counseling; Small Business Administration Home, Personal Property, Business and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Programs; and appropriate agriculture programs for the six affected counties. In addition, he is requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for all counties within the state of Ohio.

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