

From: Lonnie Muller, clerk in the Town of Stark, Vernon County and chairman of the Vernon County chapter of the Wisconsin Towns Association

Reference: Financial ability of local units of government to address emergencies

Background: The town of Stark is located in the often-flooded Kickapoo River valley, with the village of La Farge in the middle of the town. Small population, small tax base, \$263,000 budget with \$126,000 local tax

A severe flood in August of 2007, the largest on record happened in June 2008.

Heavy road damage and infrastructure damage. August flood was \$75,000, \$30,000 from FEMA in '07, another payment should be coming this year. We pay 12 ½ %

June flood is well over \$40,000 highway damage, plus loss of town hall.

Levy limit wiped us out, all CD's cashed in, loan taken out, cut out all scheduled roadwork, and cut other services.

Proposal: 1. Eliminate all levy limits 2. Allow municipalities to factor in federal or declared emergency costs into budget levy as a separate entity apart from normal operating expense and outside the levy limit.