



STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Wes Moore

September 15, 2026

Mr. Edward F. Fears, Director
Field Operations Center East
Office of Field Operations and Disaster Recovery
Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience
U.S. Small Business Administration
101 Marietta Street NW, Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30303-2725

Dear Mr. Fears:

Under provisions of Title 13 C.F.R. Part 123.3, I respectfully request the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) award a Small Business Administrative declaration to provide assistance in the form of SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Anne Arundel County following the Empire Tower Incident on July 9, 2026.

The structural emergency at Empire Towers, located at 7310 Ritchie Highway, has caused significant disruption to businesses operating within the building. On July 9, 2026, approximately 100 occupants were evacuated after active, unpermitted construction work compromised the parking garage beneath the 10-story office building. Due to significant structural instability and the risk of collapse, Anne Arundel County established a mandatory 150-foot safety perimeter, prohibiting businesses and occupants from accessing their offices, equipment, records, inventory, and personal possessions.

As of August 14, 2026, the building was expected to remain inaccessible for at least an additional six weeks; however, the duration remains uncertain and access cannot resume until the building is determined to be structurally sound. This extended closure has prevented affected businesses from operating from their normal places of business and has resulted in significant economic losses. A survey of these affected businesses was conducted to determine the economic impact of their losses, for the disaster period as compared to the same period in the preceding year. Based upon these surveys, I certify eight small businesses in the disaster area have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the disaster and are in need of financial assistance not otherwise available on reasonable terms, surpassing the program requirement of five businesses being affected.

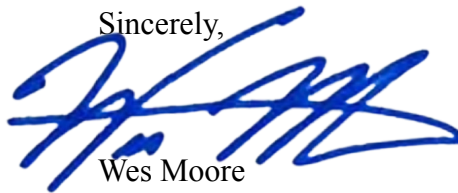
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governor.maryland.gov

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Attached are eight Economic Injury Disaster Loan worksheets completed by affected business owners whose businesses have experienced substantial revenue losses as a direct result of the closure, with conditions continuing to prevent normal business operations from resuming.

If you need additional information, please contact Russell Strickland, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Emergency Management at 410-517-3600 ext.3601 or russell.strickland@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wes Moore', is positioned above the printed name.

Wes Moore
Governor
State of Maryland