



## GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

June 28, 2023

Kem Fleming, Director  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
Office of Disaster Assistance

Dear Mr. Fleming:

Under the provisions of Title 13 C.F.R. Part 123.3, I respectfully request that the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) implement a Small Business Administration declaration to provide assistance in the form of SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, following the collapse of the Interstate 95 bridge in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, on June 11, 2023. Please find the attached certification of seven businesses in the disaster area which have suffered injury as a result of the bridge collapse.

On June 11, 2023, a tanker hauling 8,500 gallons of gasoline lost control while navigating the left-hand curve of an off-ramp in northeast Philadelphia, causing the truck to overturn. The truck landed on its side, rupturing the gasoline tank and igniting a fire that caused an Interstate 95 overpass bridge to collapse. The fire left a section of the northbound side of the highway in a heap of ruins and the southbound section so badly damaged that it had to be demolished. This particular stretch of Interstate 95, in northeast Philadelphia near the Delaware River, is used by about 160,000 vehicles a day in each direction. The repairs to the damaged section of the interstate are expected to take months. Officials have added extra cars to commuter trains, arranged detours, and offered free parking at some mass transit lots, but traffic is still congested. Detour routes were established for both northbound and southbound traffic; however, these detours have made it hard to reach businesses along those routes due to traffic congestion. Numerous businesses could not operate due to the damage to Interstate 95 and closures of adjacent roads.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) conducted sample surveys of the affected businesses to determine the economic impact of the resultant losses. Based upon these surveys, I certify that at least five 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.

Sincerely,

Governor Josh Shapiro