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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 – 3505

June 20, 2023

Mr. Jason P. Tuell
Director, Eastern Region
National Weather Service - Eastern Region
630 Johnson Ave., Suite 202
Bohemia, NY 11716

Dear Director Tuell:

I am writing this letter today to express my concerns with the delayed and rather confused reports the residents of Northwest Ohio received from the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office (WFO) before, during, and after the severe weather event that occurred on the evening of June 15, 2023.

We understand now that an EF2-rated tornado did set down and, along with damaging winds, rain, and hail, caused significant destruction. Most unfortunately, tornado sirens were going off in part in the City of Toledo only after the storm ripped through and the weather reports warning of dangers were well behind where they needed to be to effectively warn Ohioans in the northwest part of the state of the impending danger.

This is now the second time I have observed delays like this in this calendar year and I am concerned that it may be indicative of a systemic issue, not an isolated incident as described in my prior letter of April 2, 2023 to which you so kindly responded.

You previously detailed efforts that were being taken to improve the forecasting and lead time provided for severe weather from WFO Cleveland but it seems those efforts must be revisited.

Please review this matter and provide me with your comments and recommendations for any actions that can be taken better serve my constituents before the next severe weather event.

Your response should be directed to my Cleveland office at 801 West Superior Ave., Suite 1400, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (Phone: 216-522-7272; Fax: 216-522-2239).

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator