

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #21557 and #21558; MICHIGAN Disaster Number MI-20043]

Administrative Declaration of a Disaster for the State of Michigan

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is notice of an Administrative declaration of a disaster for the state of Michigan dated April 28, 2026.

Incident: Tornadoes.

DATES: Issued on April 28, 2026.

Incident Period: March 6, 2026.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: June 29, 2026.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan

Application Deadline Date: January 28, 2027.

ADDRESSES: Visit the MySBA Loan Portal at <https://lending.sba.gov> to apply for a disaster assistance loan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Talarico, Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given as a result of the Administrator's disaster declaration, applications for disaster loans may be submitted online using the MySBA Loan Portal <https://lending.sba.gov> or in person at other locally announced locations. For further assistance please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center by email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or by phone at 1-800-659-2955. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties: Branch, Cass, St. Joseph.

Contiguous Counties:

Michigan: Berrien, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, Van Buren. Indiana: Elkhart, LaGrange, St. Joseph, Steuben.

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
<i>For Physical Damage:</i>	
Homeowners with Credit Available Elsewhere	5.750
Homeowners without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.875
Businesses with Credit Available Elsewhere	8.000
Businesses without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000

	Percent
Private Non-Profit Organizations with Credit Available Elsewhere	3.625
Private Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.625
<i>For Economic Injury:</i>	
Business and Small Agricultural Cooperatives without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000
Private Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.625

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 21557C and for economic injury is 215580.

The states which received an SBA Administrative declaration are Indiana, Michigan.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

(Authority: 13 CFR 123.3(b).)

James Stallings,

Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience.

[FR Doc. 2026-08516 Filed 4-30-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8026-09-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Scaling Critical Suppliers in Domestic Supply Chains

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) requests public input to inform the design of near-term initiatives intended to strengthen domestic manufacturing capacity for critical components, subcomponents, materials, tooling, and specialized capabilities essential to economic resilience and national security. This request focuses on identifying opportunities to rapidly scale existing domestic supplier capacity in areas characterized by supply chain constraints or choke points. SBA is particularly interested in gaps where qualifying domestic small businesses have a demonstrated operating history but are unable to reach a specific near-term milestone due to a capital shortfall. Information received in response to this Request for information (RFI) will inform the development of SBA innovation programs and initiatives, including potential prize competitions designed to deliver measurable increases in production capacity, supplier participation, and supply chain resilience within a compressed execution window.

DATES: Submit comments on or before May 18, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, identified by subject line "RFI Response: Strengthening Domestic Supply Chains and Critical Supplier Competition" to investinnovate@sba.gov.

Instructions: Please include the subject line, "RFI Response: Strengthening Domestic Supply Chains and Critical Supplier Competition". Your response should include a cover sheet with the following:

- Individual or Organization Name
 - (If applicable) Organization/ Individual Point of Contact
 - (If applicable) Organization UEI
- Comments are strictly voluntary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rikki Jones, Program Analyst, Office of Investment and Innovation, U.S. Small Business Administration, investinnovate@sba.gov, 202-205-6156. This phone number may also be reached by individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities, through the Federal Communications Commission's TTY-Based Telecommunications Relay Service Teletype service at 711.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

SBA administers programs to support small business development, access to capital, and innovation pursuant to the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 631, *et seq.*), the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended (15 U.S.C. 662, *et seq.*), and the America COMPETES Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 3719), including:

- 15 U.S.C. 634(b) (General Powers of the Administrator);
- 15 U.S.C. 662-697g (Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program);
- 15 U.S.C. 638 (Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs); and
- 15 U.S.C. 3719 (prize competitions).

SBA's investment and innovation programs are implemented in part through regulations at 13 CFR parts 107 and 121, as well as through sub-regulatory guidance, including Standard Operating Procedures and program notices. The Office of Investment and Innovation (OII) administers SBA's Innovation Network Programs, including the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition, the Regional Innovation Cluster Program, and the Federal and State Technology Partnership Program. These programs support the development of regional and sector-

based networks that help small businesses and technology firms scale.

Consistent with SBA's statutory authorities, SBA is seeking input to inform the design of future initiatives, including potential prize competitions authorized under the America COMPETES Act, 15. U.S.C. 3719.

II. Purpose and Scope

SBA seeks input on how to most effectively accelerate the immediate scaling of existing domestic small business suppliers and proven solution providers that support expanded production capacity, and address supply chain choke points through the achievement of measurable near-term milestones.

SBA is also interested in understanding how targeted actions described in this RFI can improve supplier coordination and participation across industries and through vertical integration, particularly where such improvements would enable rapid expansion of domestic production by small business participants in the U.S. industrial base.

III. Key Areas of Interest

This RFI focuses on the following key areas:

- Supply chain gaps where an infusion of capital could measurably scale production capacity or rapidly implement a new technology solution that supports this scaled production;
- Identification of suppliers and solution providers that are ready to execute a near-term milestone (approximately 1–3 months);
- The required incremental capital investment to achieve the stated near-term milestone, including description of the full capital stack required that could include a combination of federal funding and expected non-federal cost share (equity, debt and cashflow from operations, etc.); and
- Non-capital related support and actions that could mitigate execution risk and deliver measurable, near-term improvements in output, cost, lead time, and domestic small business supplier participation.

IV. Information Requested

SBA invites responses from entrepreneurs, small and large businesses, suppliers, manufacturers, entrepreneur support organizations, investors, and other industry stakeholders. Respondents are encouraged to provide concise, operational, and time-bound responses, include quantitative estimates and near-term projections, and identify assumptions and execution risks.

1. *Supply Chain Gaps and Choke Points*. What supply chain gaps or choke points and/or applicable solutions relating to manufacturing and/or production processes most constrain domestic production or U.S. economic resilience?

- a. Respondents may address:
- i. Industry, sector, or application (including defense, commercial or dual-use relevance);
 - ii. The subject component, material, or solution and its position and/or impact in the supply chain or;
 - iii. An assessment or quantification of the impact of such supply chain gap or lacking solution on cost, lead time, or dependency;
 - iv. Whether the constraint is driven by insufficient production capacity, outdated production processes or increased cost or lack of supply of upstream components;
 - v. Any single points of failure or highly concentrated supply segments that could be effectively addressed by U.S. small businesses; and
 - vi. Whether such domestic firms could achieve a near-term milestone (1–3 months) with targeted support (financial and non-financial).

2. *Supplier Readiness to Scale*. What suppliers and/or solution providers are currently positioned in the near term to scale, address a vital supply chain choke point, or facilitate advanced and more efficient production processes?

- a. Respondents may address:
- i. Evidence of existing production capability and/or tested or proven solutions;
 - ii. Current utilization and surge capacity, as applicable;
 - iii. Customer demand, contracts, or near-term pipeline; and
 - iv. Ability to address supply chain chokepoint or implement solution(s) within a compressed timeframe (1–3 months).

3. *Constraints to Near-Term Scaling*. What factors are preventing capable suppliers and solution providers from expanding production in the near-term?

- a. Respondents may address:
- i. Capital requirements (equipment, materials, working capital);
 - ii. Workforce availability and training;
 - iii. Certification or qualification requirements for both commercial and government contracts;
 - iv. Demand uncertainty;
 - v. Infrastructure or equipment limitations;
 - vi. Price fluctuations and availability of upstream inputs; and
 - vii. Other risks that could adversely affect near-term execution.

4. *Effective Interventions for Rapid Scaling*. What types of actions most

effectively enable rapid near-term supplier scaling?

- a. Respondents may address:
- i. Financial support mechanisms that can be deployed quickly;
 - ii. Demand commitments or procurement alignment;
 - iii. Technical assistance or validation support;
 - iv. Innovations and solutions that facilitate near-term growth and/or efficiencies;
 - v. Partnerships or coordinated actions; and
 - vi. Role of service providers or intermediaries in removing bottleneck.

5. *Investment, Milestones, and Expected Outcomes*. What level of capital infusion would be required to achieve measurable increases in production capacity within a short timeframe?

- a. Respondents may address:
- i. Estimated level of funding required;
 - ii. Expected non-federal cost share or private investment;
 - iii. Specific milestones achievable within 1–3 months;
 - iv. Anticipated increases in output and throughput; and
 - v. Expected improvements in cost, lead time, or supplier participation.

6. *Data and Measurement*. What data sources and metrics should SBA use to assess impact?

- a. Respondents may address:
- i. Methods for estimating current and near-term production capacity growth;
 - ii. Metrics for tracking short-term output increases;
 - iii. Indicators of reduced lead times, or cost performance;
 - iv. Metrics for measuring a specific supply chain's resilience or vulnerability; and
 - v. Metrics or indicators relating to improving national or economic security through the implementation of the applicable solution or scaled production.

V. Potential Program Design Considerations

SBA is considering approaches that may include:

- Direct support to small businesses to scale production capacity and/or implement solutions that serve supply chain resiliency;
- Support to entities that enable supplier scaling by addressing bottlenecks;
- Milestone-based funding structures tied to measurable, near-term outcomes;
- Requirements for demonstrated production capability and/or solution implementation and readiness to execute; and
- Consideration of creditworthiness, sources of capital (other than the

government), ability to deploy funds rapidly, likelihood of achievement of stated milestones (execution risk), management team qualifications and track record demonstrating success, overall impact applicable to an award of incremental capital towards economic and national security priorities.

This section is provided to inform responses and does not represent final program design.

VI. Use of Information

Responses to this RFI will inform the development of SBA initiatives, including SBA's Innovation Network Programs and potential prize competitions designed to deliver rapid, measurable increases in domestic production capacity through solutions that improve efficiencies and through scale and strengthened resiliency with respect to critical supply chains.

VII. Disclaimer

No reimbursement will be made for any costs associated with providing information in response to this RFI or any follow-up information requests. Moreover, any and all information shared in response to this RFI is protected by SBA's deliberative process and will not be associated with any single entity, person, and/or organization.

VIII. Authority

This request is issued pursuant to:

- 15 U.S.C. 631 *et seq.* (Small Business Act);
- 15 U.S.C. 634(b) (General Powers of the Administrator);
- 15 U.S.C. 662–697g (Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program);
- 15 U.S.C. 638 (Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs);
- 15 U.S.C. 3719 (Prize Competitions); and
- Implementing regulations at 13 CFR parts 107 and 121 and related authorities.

Joshua Carter,

Associate Administrator for the Office of Investment and Innovation.

[FR Doc. 2026–08554 Filed 4–30–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8026–09–P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36920]

Mesabi Railroad LLC—Operation Exemption—Itasca County Regional Railroad Authority

Mesabi Railroad LLC (Mesabi Railroad), a noncarrier, has filed a

verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to operate a rail line in Itasca County, Minn. (the Line) and associated sidetracks. The Line is owned by the Itasca County Regional Railroad Authority (ICRRA) and runs approximately 6 miles from a connection with an existing rail line co-owned by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) and Canadian National Railway Company (CN) at Taconite, Minn. The Line has no mileposts.

The verified notice states that ICRRA and Mesabi Railroad plan to enter into a rail use and operations agreement (the Agreement) requiring Mesabi Railroad to provide common carrier rail service over the Line. The Agreement will also allow Mesabi Railroad to use the associated sidetracks. Mesabi Railroad anticipates commencing common carrier service over the Line on or after May 17, 2026.

Mesabi Railroad certifies that the transaction will not involve an interchange commitment. Mesabi Railroad also certifies that its projected annual revenues resulting from the transaction will not result in the creation of a Class II or Class I rail carrier and will not exceed \$5 million.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is May 17, 2026, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than May 8, 2026 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36920, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Mesabi Railroad's representative, Jason Tutrone, Thompson Hine LLP, 1919 M St. NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20036.

According to Mesabi Railroad, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: April 27, 2026.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.

Aretha Laws-Byrum,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2026–08462 Filed 4–30–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. 2025–0687]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Requests for Comments; Clearance of a New Approval of Information Collection: Reauthorization Section 769 Survey To Evaluate Airport Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Staffing Levels

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of a new information collection. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on December 2, 2025. The collection involves the use of a questionnaire to establish an initial baseline on Airport Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) resources and staffing capabilities at each of the 518 certificated Part 139 airports. The information to be collected is necessary to fulfill requirements under section 769 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (Pub. L. 118–63).

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by June 1, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Stearns by email at: matthew.stearns@faa.gov; phone: 907–271–5444.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA's