Andy Birkey, *Minnesota Independent*

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Rep. Keith Ellison toured parts of North Minneapolis and Fridley on Monday following a tornado that ripped through the area leaving two dead and two dozen injured. Minnesota's elected officials have offered their support in the wake of the disaster, and community organizations have outlined ways that Minnesotans can help those affected.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the people and communities in Minneapolis, Fridley and St. Louis Park affected by tornadoes that struck on Sunday," said Ellison, whose district office is in north Minneapolis. "I grieve for the loss of life and the broad scale destruction left in the wake of this disaster."

Rep. Betty McCollum, who represents the district bordering Minneapolis, said, "My thoughts and prayers are with residents of Minneapolis and neighboring communities who have been impacted by Sunday's deadly tornado and severe thunderstorms. When families experience tragedy, all Minnesotans come together to help. My office stands ready to help as needed."

Sen. Al Franken offered his help as well. "My staff is on the ground in the area and I've contacted Mayor R.T. Rybak about the damage," he said. "I assured the mayor that I stand ready to do everything I can to help as the extent of the storm damage is assessed and we move into the recovery stage."