

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2019

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of the State of North Dakota's request for a presidential major disaster declaration for impacts of widespread, severe spring flooding.

Governor Doug Burgum activated the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan on March 27, 2019, by declaring a statewide emergency. As you are aware, the State is now requesting a presidential disaster declaration for the period from March 21, 2019 to April 29, 2019 for the counties of Adams, Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Emmons, Grand Forks, Grant, Hettinger, LaMoure, Logan, McKenzie, Morton, Pembina, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steel, Traill, and Walsh.

The recent flooding across the state of North Dakota has damaged homes and public infrastructure, including roads and farmland, causing dozens of residents to be displaced from their homes in the western, south-central, and eastern portions of the state. Preliminary damage assessments note significant damage as a result of this year's floods, costing over \$8.5 million with at least an additional \$2 million when floodwaters recede.

Forced evacuations prevented 110 residents from returning to their homes for several days, while no less than eight homes were destroyed, with over 12 sustaining major damage. Floodwaters have inundated farmland and damaged equipment and buildings, resulting in serious economic hardship for our state's agriculture producers. Many roads throughout the state are underwater or severely damaged to the point that they impede emergency response vehicles, disrupt school bus transportation, and prevent access to fields and pastures for farmers and ranchers.

The state has also requested to be designated as eligible for public assistance grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help the local governments and certain nonprofits in their flood recovery efforts, and that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program be implemented statewide to help communities reduce long-term risk of future flooding. It is imperative that the incident period for the declaration begin March 21, 2019, to reflect the first occurrence of flooding and the extensive efforts undertaken by communities and counties to prepare and avert a potentially larger disaster.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN HOEVEN  
U.S. Senator

  
KEVIN CRAMER  
U.S. Senator

  
KELLY ARMSTRONG  
U.S. Congressman

cc: The Honorable Kevin McAleenan, Secretary of Homeland Security (Acting)  
The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Acting)