

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 24, 2022

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write in support of the State of North Dakota's request for a presidential disaster declaration submitted by Governor Doug Burgum on June 23, 2022. The requested disaster declaration is necessary due to severe spring storms that created substantial flooding throughout North Dakota. The significant flooding experienced throughout the state caused power outages for over 10,000 residents and has amounted to more than \$57 million in damages. We appreciate your consideration of the State's request for assistance.

From April 22, 2022, through May 25, 2022, North Dakota experienced statewide, severe weather that involved a mix of torrential rain, substantial snowfall, sleet, and freezing rain. As the result of considerable precipitation and subsequent flooding, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum took steps to activate the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan and declare a statewide emergency for the spring storm that occurred from April 22 through April 24. Additionally, from April 29 to April 30, another storm with substantial precipitation caused North Dakota to break a 128-year record for rainfall. In fact, April of 2022 was the second wettest April ever recorded in North Dakota.

These storms created compounding damage, power outages, and flooding seen throughout the state that continued to perpetuate throughout the month of May. North Dakota's infrastructure, including roads, bridges and railways, all experienced major damage and made areas unsafe and impassable. Homes throughout western North Dakota went without power for over three weeks due to the strong winds and ice accumulation that collapsed 7,000 utility poles and over 550 miles of electrical infrastructure damage. North Dakota has made significant investments in flood control throughout the state, yet the severity of the storms caused those structures to be made vulnerable and put in jeopardy.

The State of North Dakota continues to evaluate and account for infrastructure damage and at this time, the total has reached over \$57 million in infrastructure damage. The State continues to recover from the spring storms and is therefore requesting a presidential major disaster declaration for forty counties, including the counties of Adams, Barnes, Billings, Bottineau, Burke, Cavalier, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Foster, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mountrail, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells and Williams. North Dakota is working to recover from these severe storms and has already made great strides to address the damage, but federal assistance is greatly needed.

We urge you to approve a presidential disaster declaration as soon as possible so that the necessary federal resources are available to assist our state. Additionally, we urge you to designate North Dakota as a Public Assistance Managing State so that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program may be implemented on a statewide basis to improve resiliency in the long-term. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request, and 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