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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
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March 14, 2019

Administrator Lee dePalo
Regional Administrator for FEMA Region VIII
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Denver Federal Center
Building 710, Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225

Subject: PDMC-PJ-08-ND-2016-002
Property Acquisition of Lots 12 & 13
North Shore Addition to Rice Lake, North Dakota

Dear Administrator dePalo;

I write regarding the acquisition and demolition of the home located at 485 North Rice Lake Road (Lots 12 & 13, North Shore Addition to Rice Lake), under the grant program PDMC-PJ-08-ND-2016-002. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

As you are likely aware, Ward County has extended its final offer letter to the owner of 485 North Rice Lak Road to acquire the property. In order to properly elevate the property, Ward County Highway Department is seeking permission to elevate structures with fill in order to preserve the integrity of the properties.

Under the aforementioned grant program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is not able to participate in the use of fill; however, Ward County does not seek a cost share with FEMA, but rather FEMA's support in allowing the use of fill to elevate the properties to 2,049.5 feet as required by Ward County Ordinance 2016-1. Presently, the homes are at the Rice Lake outlet elevation of 2,047.5 feet. If the County is not permitted to place fill following the demolition of 485 North Rice Lake Road, adjacent properties, as well as roads and utilities, could be impacted by erosion and flooding. Further, the berm protecting neighboring properties also protects the township road and is the only access to over 30 private residences. Protection of these assets and infrastructure are critical to Rice Lake residents.

Due to inevitable fluctuations in the water level of Rice Lake and subsequent flooding, I request that FEMA Region VIII consider concurring with Ward County's request to use fill during this final phase of elevating and restoring the integrity of Rice Lake properties. Neighboring property owners and utilities are in favor of Ward County's proposal, and FEMA's concurrence would ensure successful execution of the project. Should you wish to contact my office on this matter, please contact Preston Cory at preston_cory@hoeven.senate.gov or 202-224-2551.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hoeven". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Hoeven
U.S. Senator