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July 17, 2017

Mr. Brock Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472-0001

Dear Administrator Long:

I am writing to extend an invitation for you to visit Minot, North Dakota, on Friday, August 11, 2017.

As we discussed during your recent confirmation process, the City of Minot is taking a phased approach to flood protection in the Souris River Basin. This allows the community to break down this comprehensive project into manageable pieces, deploy protections in a more timely fashion, and ensure the city does not face the same risk of damage as occurred in 2011. I appreciate your commitment to work with me to advance these protections and ensure that the flood insurance rates reflect the phases as they are built. Comprehensive flood protection and affordable flood insurance are key to the peace of mind of communities across North Dakota, and Minot is no exception.

In order to best accomplish these goals, firsthand knowledge of the project is essential. A visit to Minot would provide you with valuable understanding of the local situation and aid our work together. Further, the community is still in the process of developing a plan for comprehensive protection of the region. The current U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project entails four phases. However, these phases do not afford protection for the entire region. Your insight and expertise would be a valuable addition to the efforts to develop subsequent phases. This includes identifying funding sources for additional protection, which is why I ask that Brad Hufford, the grants director for FEMA Region VIII, or similar staff join you on your visit.

Federal support for the later phases of the project would act as important leverage in securing state, local, and private funding and is vital to delivering comprehensive flood protection for those who live and work in the Souris River Basin. Accordingly, I hope you give this request your full consideration. Should the suggested date not work for your schedule, my office has prepared alternatives and will work with your staff to find a suitable time.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to have your office contact Jessica Lee, my State Director, in our Fargo office to coordinate this visit. She may be reached by phone at (701) 239-5389 or by e-mail at jessica_lee@hoeven.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hoeven". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "J" and "H".

John Hoeven
U.S. Senator

Cc: Brad Hufford, Grants Director, FEMA Region VIII

10:44