

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 9, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our full support for the request submitted by North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum for a major disaster declaration for the State of North Dakota due to the severe drought. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

On July, 26, 2017, the State of North Dakota declared a drought disaster for North Dakota counties and tribal nations experiencing extreme and long-term drought conditions resulting in a D2 (Severe), D3 (Extreme), and D4 (Exceptional) rating, as well as adjacent counties and tribal nations. On August 7, 2017, Governor Burgum requested a major disaster declaration for the State of North Dakota based upon the drought that is adversely affecting the state.

We are grateful for the actions already undertaken by your administration to bring relief to North Dakotans struggling due to this severe drought. For example, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Perdue has designated 15 counties and 11 contiguous counties as primary natural disaster areas and has released Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for emergency haying and grazing. Additionally, the U.S. Small Business Administration is providing low-interest economic injury loans to offset small nonfarm businesses' economic losses. Unfortunately, our producers are not currently eligible for these loans. While the steps taken by the federal government are appreciated, more must be done to respond to this disaster and a major disaster declaration would allow the state and its residents the necessary resources from the federal government in order to weather this devastating drought.

The impact of this drought has grown beyond the capability of the state and local authorities to provide relief. We urge you to agree to this request and approve a major disaster declaration as soon as possible so that the necessary federal resources are available to help our producers and assist our state and its residents during this time of crisis.

Sincerely,



JOHN HOEVEN
U.S. Senator



HEIDI HEITKAMP
U.S. Senator



KEVIN CRAMER
U.S. Congressman