

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2020

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your work in leading the nation's response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic as well as your continued support of North Dakotans as the State grapples with continual flooding disasters. We write in support of the State of North Dakota's request for a presidential disaster declaration for widespread spring flooding that has destroyed roads, bridges and culverts in areas that have already been heavily burdened with flooding in 2019. Thank you for your consideration.

As the result of significant spring flooding, twenty-one counties in North Dakota experienced devastating flood levels that demolished roads, bridges and culverts. As the State continues to deal with the ramifications of the fall flooding, the State is now requesting a presidential disaster declaration for the period from March 2, 2020 to April 25, 2020 for the counties of Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Emmons, Foster, Grand Forks, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Nelson, Pembina, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Traill, Walsh and Wells.

North Dakota's spring flooding has greatly impacted the agriculture industry and infrastructure, creating substantial economic impacts. The unprecedented 2019 fall flood season that kept North Dakota saturate for the winter months resulted in widespread damage and near record levels of flooding along the Red River. Flooded roads that are not traversable have resulted in emergency vehicles unable to access and respond when needed, disrupted lifeline infrastructure, stranded livestock and crops, and made farm land inaccessible. It is estimated that widespread spring flooding has caused more than \$40 million in damage to roads and other public infrastructure in North Dakota.

North Dakota has also requested that the Hazard Mitigation Program be implemented statewide to help communities reduce long-term risk of future flooding. This request is important because it will increase state resiliency and reduce future costs.

We urge you to approve a presidential disaster declaration as soon as possible so that the necessary federal resources are available to help and assist our state. 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