

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 7, 2023

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 2, 2023. The major disaster declaration is being requested due to an April 10, 2023, to May 6, 2023, flood event that impacted numerous counties in North Dakota. We appreciate your consideration of the State's request for assistance as well as your past disaster declarations, as North Dakota has experienced significant flooding events across the entire State due to record or near-record snowfall and precipitation.

North Dakotans are no strangers to a wide variety of weather conditions. According to the Accumulated Winter Storm Severity Index (AWSSI), the winter of 2022-2023 was ranked amongst the state's most extreme in nearly 150 years. During a typical winter in North Dakota, approximately 50.5" of snowfall is expected. This past winter produced double the amount of snowfall, with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reporting 101.2" of snow in parts of the state. From April 10, 2023 to May 6, 2023, the heavy snowpack, combined with rapid snowmelt, saturated soil, and ice jams resulted in severe runoff and overland flooding, closing roads and damaging property in dozens of counties across North Dakota.

As noted in Governor Burgum's request, the State of North Dakota put measures in place to protect its residents prior to, during, and after the flooding event. Throughout the years, North Dakota has made significant investments in flood control throughout the state, including both short and long-term mitigation projects. Since 1997, the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services' (NDDDES) mitigation program has completed 457 projects at a value of over \$286 million. Without these contributions, this flooding event could have been much worse and more costly. Unlocking Federal assistance through a presidential major disaster declaration is critical for the recovery of impacted communities across North Dakota.

The State continues to recover from a particularly severe winter and is therefore requesting a major disaster declaration for 21 counties as a result of flooding during the period of April 10, 2023 to May 6, 2023. These counties include Barnes, Burke, Dickey, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Hettinger, LaMoure, McHenry, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Nelson, Pembina, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Towner, Walsh, and Wells. Additionally, the State is requesting it be designated as a Public Assistance Managing State and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program be implemented on a statewide basis.

We support the State's request and urge you to approve it as soon as possible so the necessary Federal resources can be made available to North Dakotans. 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