

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 17, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Stephanie Pollack
Deputy Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

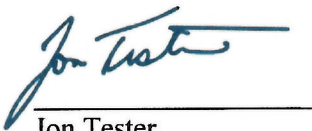
Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Deputy Administrator Pollack:

We write with extreme urgency regarding severe flooding that began on June 13, 2022 in southwestern and south central Montana. We strongly urge the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to take immediate action and provide funding to the affected areas through its Emergency Relief programs in order to restore access and mobility to communities that have been devastated by the flooding. Furthermore, we request frequent updates regarding the status of emergency relief activities and coordination.

Multiple days of rain and rapidly melting snowpack have contributed to record floods in the region, tearing through Yellowstone National Park and surrounding areas and causing extensive damage to roads and bridges. News reports have documented how floodwaters have destroyed homes and small businesses and left residents without water or power. Additionally, all five entrances to Yellowstone National Park have been closed due to "extremely hazardous conditions," which include collapsed bridges, rockslides, mudslides, and segments of paved road that have been eroded and washed out.

While the full extent of the damage is still unknown, it is imperative that we immediately begin directing sufficient federal resources to the affected communities to provide crucial early support for their recovery efforts as they rebuild infrastructure that residents and businesses rely upon. As the Montana Department of Transportation prepares to work with FHWA to secure relief funds, we ask that federal Emergency Relief funds be made available without delay to ensure residents have access to a safe transportation system. We appreciate your consideration of this urgent matter and thank you for any insight you can provide regarding FHWA's emergency relief actions.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress