

# United States Senate

August 1, 2024

Deanne Criswell  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

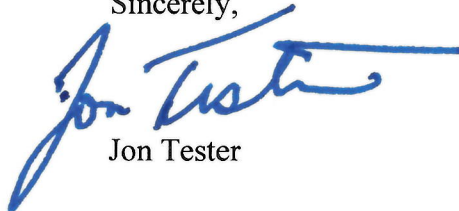
Administrator Criswell:

Earlier this month, a severe storm hit Missoula and Mineral counties in Montana. The high winds and heavy rainfall uprooted trees, downed powerlines, and left tens of thousands of Montanans without power for days. The storm caused extensive damage to the electrical infrastructure, and while these communities are starting to clean up and rebuild, there is still a lot of work to be done.

When disaster strikes, leaders from the local community, state, and federal government must work together to ensure that folks have the resources they need to get back on their feet. Montanans have weathered major storms, fires, and disasters before and know the process is clear, all requests for a presidential or federal disaster declaration must first come from the state. In the event the State of Montana chooses to seek federal assistance and request a presidential disaster declaration, I want to ensure you are already aware of this situation and in position to quickly approve it without unnecessary delay. This would unlock critical funding and make federal assistance available to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

I appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and stand ready to assist.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester