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# United States Senate

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Brock Long  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Long:

I write in support of the State of Montana's request for disaster assistance in responding to severe flooding from counties along the Rocky Mountain Front into central Montana. The rapid snowmelt and resulting floods inflicted severe damage to roads, culverts, bridges, and private residences and has led to major impacts to Montana's rural populations. Should the President grant Montana's request for a major disaster declaration, I urge you to expedite resources to assist the affected areas.

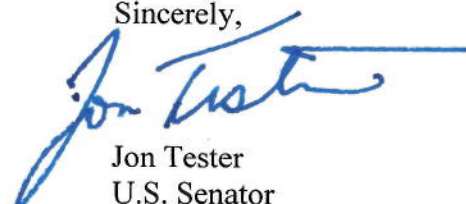
Flooding in Montana began this year with a higher than average snowpack that lasted well into the spring season. Below normal temperatures persisted in some areas of the State into March and early April, and additional storms during this time helped to solidify the snowpack. When temperatures rose to normal – or above normal – levels in April, rapidly melting snowpack in the plains was quickly followed by flooding of Montana's rivers and streams.

The counties impacted the most by this flooding include Blaine, Carbon, Golden Valley, Hill, Liberty, Missoula, Musselshell, Petroleum, Pondera, Powell, Toole, and Valley. Montana Governor Steve Bullock requested that a major disaster for the State of Montana be declared as of June 18, 2018 and the State is in urgent need of federal assistance.

The amount of resources required to meet these communities' needs as they recover from this flooding outstrips the ability of the State and local governments to pay for these damages. Because of the number and magnitude of emergencies and disasters within the last two years, including severe wildfires, winter storms, flooding, and drought, the costs of responding to these needs exceeds Montana's ability to shoulder them alone. These communities urgently need federal resources in order to help them restore their infrastructure and way of life.

Delays in funding to these Montana counties would be extremely harmful to affected small businesses and communities. I ask that you approve the State of Montana's request as soon as possible and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
U.S. Senator

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