

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 27, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you in strong support of the state of Minnesota's request for a Major Disaster Declaration under the Stafford Act to assist communities that are working to recover from severe storms and flooding. These natural disasters have caused significant damage, and we ask that you quickly grant approval for federal disaster assistance.

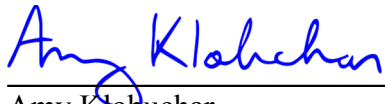
Since May, Minnesota has experienced extreme wet weather patterns including historic rain, tornadoes, and hailstorms. Starting on June 11, Northern Minnesota endured large rainstorms with some areas receiving as much as six inches of rain in a 12-hour period. In recent weeks, severe storms with heavy and continued precipitation has caused major flooding throughout the state. Rivers throughout the state are expected to remain in major flood stage for at least one to two weeks, and the Mississippi River is expected to crest this weekend at a record level in Saint Paul.

State and local emergency management teams and the Minnesota National Guard have responded to impacted areas. While the full impact of the damage is not yet known, a number of counties have provided initial damage estimates, and the state emergency management teams have determined that response efforts and damages will exceed the threshold for federal assistance under the Stafford Act through a Major Disaster Declaration. Governor Walz has submitted an official request for disaster assistance for an ongoing incident period starting June 16, 2024. The request, dated June 26, 2024, covers 42 counties and statewide hazard mitigation. In addition to public infrastructure assistance, it is critical that Minnesotans receive strong federal support to recover from serious damages to their homes, farms, and businesses.

Time and time again, Minnesotans have stepped up to support their neighbors after natural disasters. When flood waters rise and homes are damaged, volunteers and neighbors are quick to fill sandbags, clean up debris, and lend a hand to those in need. Impacted communities will repair the damage and rebuild following these disasters, but rapid federal assistance will speed up this recovery effort.

We strongly support Minnesota's request for a Major Disaster Declaration and ask that you grant its approval without delay.

Sincerely,



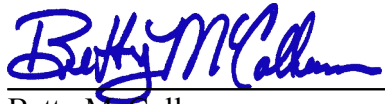
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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



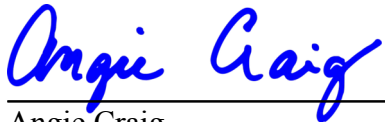
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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Brad Finstad  
Member of Congress



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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



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Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress