

July 1, 2005

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to support the request of North Dakota's Governor for disaster assistance to help North Dakota communities and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Standing Rock Sioux reservations located within our state respond to recent storms and flooding.

Over the past month, the state has been hit hard by multiple storms that have produced significant rainfall and damaging high winds. This rainfall has created high runoff and flooding in many communities damaging utilities and roads. According to preliminary estimates, this year's storms and flooding have caused more than \$13 million in damages to public infrastructure.

Unfortunately, these communities do not have the resources to cover those costs without significantly affecting other vital community services. Additionally, our state has been hard hit by multiple disasters over the past decade, which have severely strained the budgets of local governments. North Dakotans have been happy to help other states and communities when they have been hit by disasters, and our state again needs the assistance of the federal government to respond to this year's events.

It is also important to note that communities across North Dakota have taken significant steps during the past decade to prevent damages before a disaster strikes. Our state ranks among the highest in terms of spending on pre-disaster mitigation projects, and we will continue to strongly support those programs. However, this year's disaster is beyond the ability of the state, local, and tribal governments to respond, and we urge you to quickly approve the request of the Governor.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information you may find helpful in fulfilling this request.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD  
United States Senate

EARL POMEROY  
United States House

BYRON L. DORGAN  
United States Senate

