

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 1, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As representatives of communities devastated by heavy storms and rainfall across southern Minnesota this week, we are writing to request your assistance as the residents of these areas begin to recover.

On Tuesday, September 22, 2010, heavy rains swept across the southern third of Minnesota. Overnight, some communities experienced over 11 inches of rain. Subsequent flooding covered roads, bridges, and homes. For example, in Steele County, rising waters have forced the evacuation of towns along Maple Creek and Interstate 35 has been closed in both directions. In Zumbro Falls, 60 of 95 homes were destroyed, and, in the City of Truman, over 80 percent of homes have at least one foot of water and substantial flood damage.

The Governor of Minnesota has declared a State of Emergency in 17 counties and 30 cities. Additionally, the Governor has determined that these incidents are of such severity that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State, and, to that end, has requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration for these areas.

Given the degree of damage to these regions of our state, we strongly encourage you to issue such a declaration in a timely manner and allow FEMA to begin to supplement state and local recovery efforts in these flooded areas with public assistance, individual assistance and mitigation.

Minnesotans have faced significant disasters in recent years, from deadly tornadoes this June to widespread flooding to devastating drought. We are confident that the residents of southern Minnesota will recover and rebuild, and we urge you to make the federal government a full partner in that effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your assistance in helping the recovery effort across Minnesota.



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

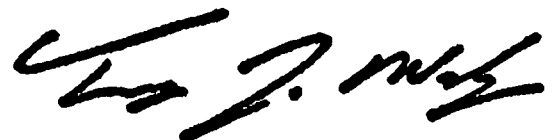
Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress