

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 13, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of Governor Jay Inslee's October 8, 2020 request for a Major Disaster declaration for the State of Washington and supplemental federal assistance, and to reiterate our support for the governor's September 16, 2020 request.

We urge you to approve Governor Inslee's request for Public Assistance Category A-G for Douglas, Franklin, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Whitman, and Yakima Counties, Individual Assistance for Whitman County, and assistance from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. Additionally, we support the governor's request for direct federal assistance to mitigate the threat of post-wildfire flooding and erosion. To those ends, we ask that you provide the federal assistance necessary to form an Erosion Threat Assessment/Reduction Team (ETART) for Burned Area Reflectance Classification (BARC) analysis, field observations, burn scar, and watershed analysis, and emergency measures recommendations for wildfires occurring throughout declared counties.

As we mentioned in our previous letter, Washington has grappled with a wildfire season of historic scope and intensity this year. In the five day period from September 7th and 11th, an estimated 626,982 acres burned throughout the state. That area alone exceeds each of the total burned acreage in each of the fire seasons between 2002 and 2019, with the exception of 2015's devastating wildfire season. These wildfires have forced the evacuations of thousands of people, threatened 3,000 homes and structures, and deteriorated air quality to hazardous levels. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has drained the state of its capacity and resources, costing an estimated \$1 billion in direct response activities, and leading to a projected \$4.6 billion state budget shortfall over the next three years.

Therefore, we fully support Governor Inslee's request for a major disaster declaration statewide as well as Public Assistance and Individual Assistance for eligible counties. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



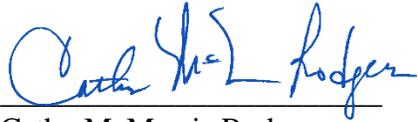
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



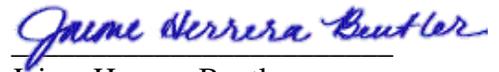
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



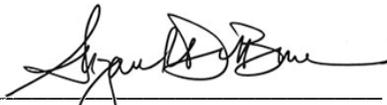
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



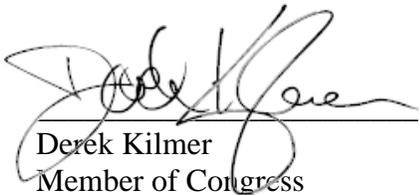
Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
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Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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