

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 15, 2025

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

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the Washington state delegation, we write in support of Washington state's January 14, 2025, request for a Major Disaster Declaration due to the devastating windstorms, heavy rainfall, flooding, and mudslides caused by a bomb cyclone that struck the state from November 17 to November 25, 2024. We implore you to approve the request for assistance as quickly as possible.

The November storm delivered catastrophic impacts across the Evergreen state, impacting millions of residents and wreaking havoc on communities. The storm was one of the most severe the state has seen, toppling trees into homes, damaging power infrastructure across multiple counties, paralyzing major transportation corridors, and tragically claiming two lives.

An initial assessment reveals extensive damage to critical infrastructure, parks, cultural sites, schools, public buildings, and more, resulting in over \$34 million dollars in damages across six counties. In East King County, where the brunt of damage occurred, more than 400 miles of power transmission lines were affected by the storm, impacting tens of thousands of residents. Prolonged outages left individuals and families unable to heat their homes or preserve food or medical supplies. In Grays Harbor County, significant damage to a water level monitoring device at the Wynoochee Dam rendered it inoperable, posing a serious risk to the dam's structural integrity and endangering thousands of people who live in downstream communities. Pacific, Snohomish, and Wahkiakum Counties experienced widespread destruction including sinkholes, crippled utility infrastructure, and damaged public and private structures. In eastern Washington, Walla Walla County suffered damage to local utilities and infrastructure, including a local cemetery. Debris removal and cleanup efforts are still underway.

We commend the extraordinary efforts of our first responders and emergency personnel whose tireless work under dangerous conditions has been vital in protecting lives and restoring essential services. However, the scale and severity of this disaster has overwhelmed the state's capacity to recover fully. Federal assistance is critical to supplement the state's efforts.

We reiterate our full support for Washington state's request for a Major Disaster Declaration, including assistance from the Public Assistance Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Marie Gluenskamp Perez
Member of Congress



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Michael Baumgartner
Member of Congress