

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
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 addendum to include Public Assistance to their September 28th request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance due to devastating wildfire damages incurred from July 23rd through August 31st. We implore you to approve the request for public and individual assistance as quickly as possible.

Washington state suffered from a historic wildfire season, with multiple wildfires ravaging parts of Central and Eastern Washington, devastating communities in Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Okanogan, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman, and Yakima Counties, as well as the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

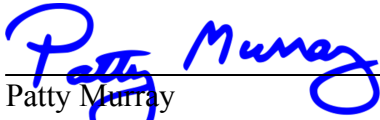
Local, Tribal, state, federal, and out-of-state firefighting crews deployed quickly, pooling resources to contain the fires and protect both life and property. Fire crews faced dangerous conditions, including hazardous terrain, high winds, and record-setting drought, which made the fires extremely difficult to contain. Many of these fires burned over the course of several weeks, and damaged public infrastructure like roads, bridges, public utility systems, and other essential public assets. Beyond the infrastructure that was completely lost to the wildfires, the prolonged exposure to fire, smoke, and extreme temperatures have left remaining infrastructure vulnerable to further damage and unsafe for the public.

An initial damage assessment revealed that the state sustained an estimated \$133.7 million in damages across eleven counties and the Spokane Tribe of Indians. In Spokane County, the Spokane Complex Fires, which burned nearly 10,000 acres, severely damaged electrical distribution systems, public water systems, transportation infrastructure, municipal equipment, public lands, and solid-waste infrastructure, resulting in over \$70 million in damages.

These devastating wildfires have put significant stress on Washington state's infrastructure and emergency response resources. Throughout the crisis, local, Tribal, state, federal, and international first responders stepped up and worked tirelessly to keep our communities safe.

We thank you for your timely approval of the state's request for an Emergency Declaration which provided vital federal support for both mitigation and recovery. We reiterate our full support for the October 6th request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance and thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Michael Baumgartner
Member of Congress



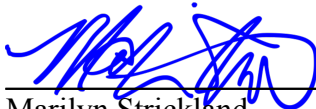
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



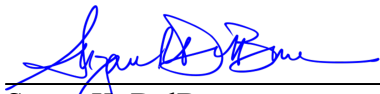
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



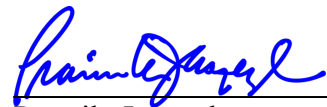
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress