



June 23, 2022

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

Through: Nancy Dragani, Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region VIII
Denver Federal Center
Building 710, Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225-0267

RE: REQUEST FOR A PRESIDENTIAL MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION

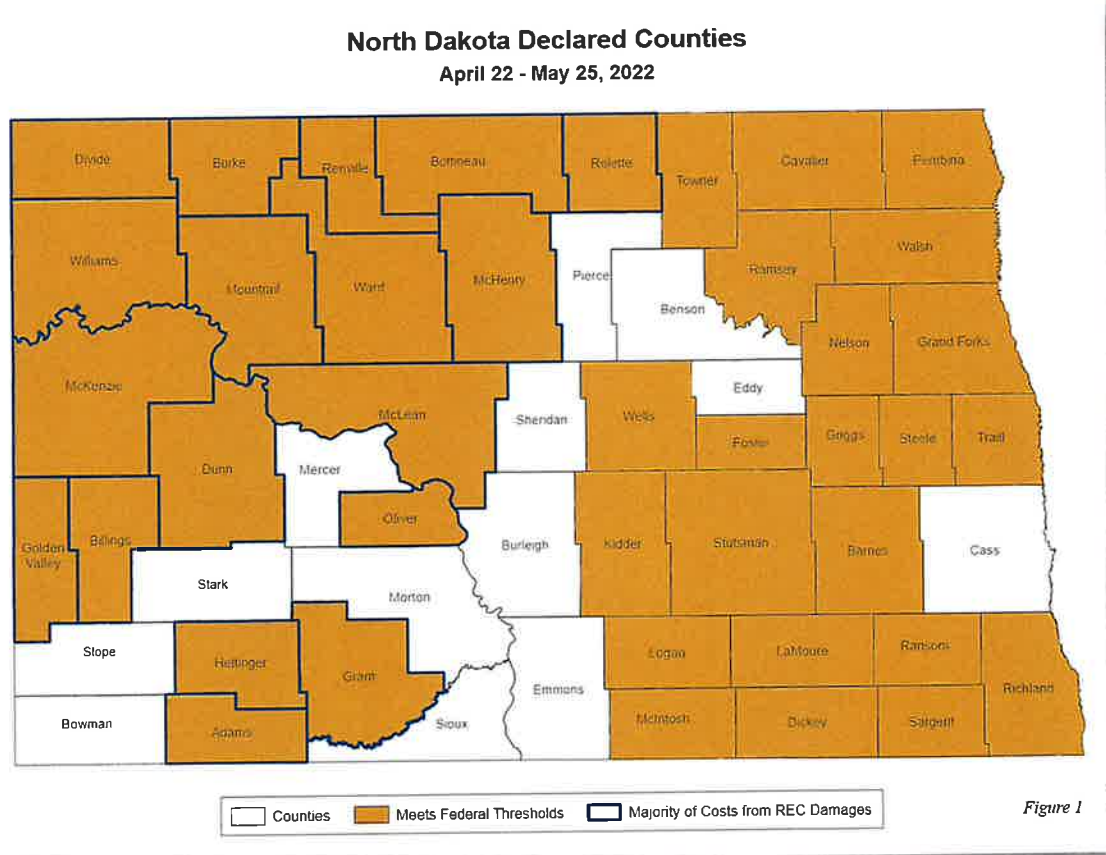
Dear Mr. President,

Please accept my gratitude on behalf of the State of North Dakota's residents, producers and vibrant communities. We appreciate the federal government's strong support for our state as we have overcome every obstacle that has come our way. The residents of North Dakota never fail to save lives and protect property during extreme events.

North Dakota has been approved for five federal disasters since 2020: the COVID-19 pandemic, two flooding disasters and two disasters for severe summer storms. Assistance from these declarations has brought funding for repairs, which have been applied to help mitigate impacts for future events. However, once again we find ourselves in need of federal assistance after experiencing a severe winter storm in April, record levels of flooding and cascading impacts caused by continuous rain events. From April 22 to May 25, 2022, North Dakota experienced a series of wintry, mixed precipitation events around the state resulting in significant freezing rain, heavy snow, sleet and downpours that broke 128-year records. Impacts caused damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railways and flood control mechanisms that were near or at complete failure. Ice on electrical systems led to the collapse of 7,000 poles and at least 550 miles of damage to electric infrastructure, leaving households without power for up to three and a half weeks.

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.36, the State of North Dakota requests a major disaster declaration due to severe storms and subsequent flooding that occurred between April 22, 2022, and May 25, 2022, for 40 counties including Adams, Barnes,

Billings, Bottineau, Burke, Cavalier, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Foster, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mountrail, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells and Williams. Many of the included counties experienced significant rural electric cooperative (REC) damages outlined in *Figure 1*. Damage to local infrastructure systems, with an emphasis on REC damages, are currently estimated at over \$57 million and are expected to be even higher once all damage sites are accounted for. In response to these spring storm conditions, Executive Orders 2022-04: *Burgum*



Declares Disaster for Historic Blizzard and 2022-05: Burgum Declares Statewide Emergency for Flooding, Infrastructure Damage were issued, formally activating state emergency resources to ensure a timely and coordinated approach to the response and recovery needs of our citizens and their communities.

State Climatologist Adnan Akyüz, Ph.D., North Dakota State University, noted in *Attachment A: Analysis of the April 22-24 Storm, ND* that some communities received more than 25 times as much precipitation than they would normally receive during a three-day period from April 22 through April 24. Additionally, parts of the state received historic snowfall totaling 30 to 36 inches the previous weekend. Snow accumulations from April 12 through April 24 were the highest on record. Rainfall and melted snow struggled to absorb into soil as the state has experienced extensive drought and frigid temperatures increasing runoff rates into tributaries

including the Red River Valley and Devils Lake basin. From April 22 to May 25, 2022, local and tribal communities, North Dakota state agencies and its whole community partners, fought against high flood levels, provided technical assistance to help prevent community flood damages, and worked toward total power grid recovery helping more than 10,000 households.

Weather Summary

A Series of Challenging Weather Events

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) remained in an elevated activation level throughout the month of April as three significant storms impacted the state. Beginning on April 12, 2022, a three-day blizzard dumped record amounts of heavy, wet snow on much of the state with some areas receiving more than 30 inches of snow and wind gusts reaching over 60 miles per hour (mph). Twenty-six daily snowfall records were broken between April 12 and April 14 with some stations breaking daily records two days in a row. The highest 24-hour snowfall amounts came in at 36 inches northwest of Minot in Ward County causing major transportation difficulties. Roadways such as I-94 and I-29 were closed for vast periods of time, bringing second order impacts across the state especially for those in rural areas who are considered some of our most vulnerable populations.

The second storm occurred from April 22 to April 24 and engulfed the state in a wintry mix of freezing rain, heavy snow, sleet and downpours. This storm caused massive amounts of damage to our electric grid infrastructure in western North Dakota, and it kickstarted the overland, riverine and closed-basin lake flooding that subsequently impacted the eastern half of North Dakota for the following 30 days.

The ongoing flood caused by the April 22-24 storm was further exacerbated by a third storm from April 29 to April 30 which broke the state's 128-year record for rainfall. This final rainstorm added another 1 to 3 inches of runoff across the Red River Basin. The City of Grand Forks received four-and-a-half times its normal precipitation with a total of 3.51 inches of precipitation in 14 days, setting the new record. The Red River Valley and the City of Valley City received similar amounts with significant flood levels to follow. In many locations in North Dakota precipitation accumulations became the highest on record. April 2022 was the second wettest April on record in North Dakota. These three consecutive storms brought strenuous conditions that called for extended response times and involvement from several state agencies. As May approached, warm weather brought a fast melt and runoff rate that exacerbated already very high river flood levels. The state experienced significant overland flooding with prolonged riverine flooding.

April 22-24 and Subsequent Flooding

Starting on April 22, North Dakota experienced another series of extreme weather events. Heavy rain with thunderstorms occurred that Friday with the system moving east. Starting in the west, Colorado lows brought a wintry mix including rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow while heavy downpours covered the east. The state saw a range of 2 to 4 inches of liquid equivalent as it came down in many forms of precipitation. On Saturday, April 23, there were active blizzard warnings ongoing in the west while a tornado watch was in place for the east. A brief tornado occurred in LaMoure County.

Communities across the state faced high winds, with the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) reporting some as high as 79 mph in New Town, on Three Affiliated Tribes lands. Winds downed branches and power poles and put additional stress on aging infrastructures. Impacts across the state were variable, but impacts in certain areas devastated families, producers and entire communities. Heavy ice and wind snapped thousands of power poles, causing downed lines and resulting in extensive and extended power outages throughout the western portion of the state. Critical infrastructure such as airports and hospitals faced challenges remaining open, and voluntary organizations assisted local emergency managers in opening warming shelters for those without power.

Record-breaking precipitation caused flooding throughout the Red River Valley and its tributaries. Hydrographs from the National Weather Service (NWS) located in *Attachment B: NDDES Summary for the April 22-24, 2022, North Dakota Blizzard and Subsequent Flooding Through Mid-May* indicated that 18 waterways reached thresholds to declare levels at flood stage. As response and mitigation efforts reached capacity, overland flooding worsened, elevating pressure on dams and levees. Several dams experienced great amounts of pressure and brought worry of technical failure, such as the Bourbanis Dam in Cavalier County owned by the Pembina Water Resource District. The SEOC, North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR), and NDNG remained on-call for 24 hours as conditions evolved. Communities and households throughout the eastern portion of the state worked to protect their homes and personal safety from floodwaters while the western portion fought ice and extensive power outages.

Incident Analysis

Due to these weather impacts, communication challenges and road closures led to demanding response and recovery efforts. The blizzard plugged city streets, rural roads and interstate highway underpasses, forcing road closures that created delays in critical resources for days and required agency assistance. Life-threatening conditions of blowing snow and near-zero visibility created impossible travel conditions and led to numerous transportation-related incidents and extensive school and courthouse closures. Responders were delayed or unable to assist stranded motorists during severe conditions. Freezing rain accumulation and wind left many electrical poles and lines leaning, sagging, knocked over or severely damaged. This tremendous amount of damage to electric infrastructure left over 10,000 citizens without electricity, and some rural residents did not have power restored until weeks later. Strenuous conditions and closures required a whole community response to assistance.

Divide County officials reported nearly 100% of the county was without power. Second and third order effects progressively developed throughout the state. Due to power outages, McLean County Regional Water District for the City of Max reported they were unable to produce/treat their water. Keeping up with water demands from their users posed additional challenges to public works. To mitigate risk, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) activated a boil order for the city until safety testing was completed. The City of Max is just one of many communities that experienced hardship through this disaster. Vital resources such as bottled water, heater meals, generators and shelters were provided to the most vulnerable, covering various locations across North Dakota. Mass care sheltering and support became available to locals through coordination with nonprofits, but in turn, the high demand for

resources made housing options scarce for responding agencies and contractors. Many shelters provided warmth, showers and meals or kitchens.

As the snow was flying over the west, water was rising in the east. Large amounts of rainfall and melting snowpack led to ponding, overland and riverine flooding affecting residential, industrial, commercial and agricultural areas. Being a state that commonly floods, many communities are knowledgeable and well-equipped for response. Still, this storm repetitively posed threats to the public. Protective measures that weren't already in place were utilized, such as floodwall panels, clay levees, pumps, countless sandbags and other preventative measures by locals and assisting agencies. These preventative measures could have easily been more widespread and costly if not for the mitigation activities our state has worked to implement through state and federal mitigation programs. With days of continuous rain, the soil conditions progressively became more saturated, impacting infrastructure. Transportation infrastructure was extremely impacted by washout, erosion, debris, blown culverts and partially/completely submerged roads. Bridges in these areas also sustained damages or were destroyed. The Hi-Soaring Eagle Ranch south of Valley City in Barnes County, which is an assisted care facility for individuals with traumatic brain injuries, needed to evacuate individuals into town due to water flowing over its bridge deck. There are no alternative routes for residents who depended on this sole access road. Necessary closures of inundated roads were put into place, but at such a scale, it created troublesome barriers. Residents became isolated when sole access roads disappeared turning some properties into islands. In one instance, the United States Customs and Border Patrol used a flatboat to assist residents in Pembina Township because they were surrounded by water.

Furthermore, overland flooding hit levees, sewer systems, emergency spillways and livestock operations. Some wastewater collection, pumping and treatment systems were pushed to their design limits due to the stormwater inundations. The City of Kathryn in Barnes County was forced to pump sewage into ditches since there is no storm sewer system, and the lift station could not keep up. The Napoleon lift station in Logan County experienced a large volume of groundwater infiltration that overran the sanitary sewer system. This lift station has two pumps that lack permanent generators, so only one lift station was assured to continue services. This resulted in backing up of sewage into residential and commercial properties. These are just a few of the towns that took damage to sewer systems from excessive rainfall. Reported damages from individual homes indicated flooded basements, destroyed yards, sump pump failures and damaged levees. With water taking over land and infrastructure, support was needed to shelter animals. Walsh County officials reported securing shelters for livestock and pets for individuals who could not provide their own. North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension agents reported more than 25,000 significantly impacted cattle with more than 1,000 calf deaths. Farmers and ranchers hit a standstill in operations.

In addition, dams were impacted by the substantial water amounts. Monitoring the condition of at-risk dams was vital to ensure spillways and outlets were not clogged and erosion was not occurring. Controlled releases and pumping of water were actively attempted to alleviate stress on the structures. The Mayville Dam #2 in Traill County failed to the south of the city from weeks of continuous rain that soon caused erosion. The erosion exposed utility lines and cut off residential access.

Bourbanis Dam is a critical piece of water infrastructure as its loss would result in the collapse of the Herzog and Renwick dams downstream. If these dams were to fail, it is projected that the amount of water being released would completely flood the City of Cavalier. These potential catastrophic impacts justified the emergency allocation of resources. The National Guard responded with two Black Hawk helicopters placing 213 one-ton sandbags to stabilize areas of concern around the dam. Pumps were provided from the NDDWR to assist with the drawdown of water levels. NDDWR also placed a PRESENS (Pushing REmote SENSors) water elevation sensor unit at this dam so water levels could be monitored, while providing technical assistance with state response and coordination efforts. Despite these efforts, there was still a critical need to remove water at a faster pace. The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) coordinated an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request from Pembina County for a Chinook helicopter from the Minnesota National Guard. Assisted by North Dakota Soldiers on the ground, they placed two pumps weighing over five tons each to help fight flood waters. Seventeen dams across the state experienced flow over spillways. Pembina County officials reported Bourbanis Dam pumped roughly 30,000 gallons of water per minute to avoid widespread evacuation and to alleviate major flooding in the City of Cavalier. Roughly 700 gallons of diesel a day was needed to take these actions. This disaster exceeded local capabilities in many ways. Through mutual aid, the communities were able to protect/defend life safety, travel and critical infrastructure to the best of their abilities. Not all was lost, but not all was saved.

Community and Government Partnerships

Residents of North Dakota consistently demonstrate their commitment to the safety and security of their communities. In response to these storms, local, tribal, state and federal partners persistently collaborated to ensure those at risk were supported. Whole community partners took initiative to assist, monitor and report impacts or related issues. Acquiring and disseminating resources to aid affected areas brought challenges, but with the support of the community, efforts were able to be accomplished successfully. Pre-storm coordination efforts were facilitated by NDDDES with local/tribal emergency managers, state agencies and the North Dakota REC Association to ensure readiness, identify resource gaps, messaging to partners and the public, etc.

My staff coordinated with the SEOC as part of efforts to monitor conditions, provide public information and ensure timely support to local and tribal governments. Due to the increased dam releases, rainfall and river levels through Valley City at Baldhill Dam in Barnes County, the city had to implement extensive flood protective measures. Based on the potential for community flooding, I requested the St. Paul USACE to provide technical assistance and advanced measures for levee construction. They also provided technical assistance to the counties of Pembina and LaMoure at Boom Lake and the City of Marion. NDDDES staged Tiger Dam at Boom Lake and it has remained in place as this area remains an ongoing concern while the community works on an emergency drain permit. NDDWR placed a PRESENS unit on this lake as well.

The Governor's Office in collaboration with North Dakota Department of Human Services (NDDHS) established the Northwest North Dakota Emergency Housing Stability Program for qualified homeowners and renters impacted by extended power outages following the blizzard and ice storm. The Disaster Preparedness Administrator for NDDHS worked with NDDDES and

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) partners to provide mass care/sheltering and fuel support for counties and tribes. Williams County Emergency Management coordinated with the American Red Cross (ARC) and Salvation Army for shelters and feeding support. Williams County Emergency Management also sent cots, blankets, pillows, personal hygiene kits, heater meals and a pallet of water to Divide County Emergency Management. The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) reached out and assisted medical facilities in affected areas to ensure they had emergency power and enough fuel for generators, food and water supply, and adequate staffing. NDDoH supported the City of Crosby in Divide County by delivering a reefer truck to provide refrigeration for perishable goods at its only grocery store. NDDoH also pre-staged equipment in preparation of evacuating the Cavalier Nursing Home. The North Dakota REC employees worked to restore power while providing updates on damages and progression activities. NDDEQ coordinated with the McLean County Emergency Manager for the City of Max on loss of power to its distribution system, testing of samples to ensure the need for a boil order, and assisted other communities experiencing sewer and wastewater system issues.

NDDOT worked diligently to clear and open roads and assisted law enforcement with multiple resources to get power crews to areas of downed power lines. NDDOT operators dispatched 355 snowplow drivers who logged 19,510 staff hours to help clear and open over 8,500 roadway miles. Additional staff from local districts, Maintenance Division, Communications Division and more took action to assist while putting their daily work on hold. The NDDOT and the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) jointly conducted 25 emergency runs for either ambulance assistance or stranded motorists. One of the runs included an urgent delivery of blood between hospitals in Minot and Bottineau. NDDES, NDHP and NDDOT also coordinated with the Three Affiliated Tribes in northwestern North Dakota to help elder tribe members reach hospitals for necessary dialysis treatment. North Dakota Parks and Recreation (NDPR) worked alongside NDHP troopers to pre-position snowmobiles and snow cats to enhance their winter capabilities. NDDWR monitored conditions and flood threats throughout the state while providing technical assistance to NDDES regarding areas of concern. They also sent staff members out to these sites of concern to monitor and obtain imagery of impacts. The North Dakota Civil Air Patrol (NDCAP) provided aerial imagery to gain a better perspective on what was going on throughout the state. NDDES coordinated with emergency managers to maintain situational awareness on impacts and resources. NDDES also coordinated with the private sector to assist local jurisdictions in locating snow removal equipment, tow trucks to remove stuck equipment, pumps, generators, etc. Additionally, NDDES was able to provide a 16-inch Crisafulli pump to Steele County, MREs to Williams and Divide counties, additional emergency management staffing, and a 90-kilowatt generator to NDDoH to replace one of its generators that malfunctioned in the City of Crosby.

In addition to governmental support, NDVOAD partners were activated. Major partners, such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, opened shelters in cooperation with county and tribal emergency management efforts. Six reported shelters remained open for multiple days serving those in need. Shelters were used both as overnight housing and daytime warming shelters for those who experienced extended power outages. They were also used for providing meals, hygiene supplies and warmth from harsh conditions and cold homes. Those in rural areas worked to rotate generators among their homes but struggled to keep a stockpile of fuel due to

transportation difficulties and cost. Due to the rural nature of the state, transportation is difficult when weather conditions are poor. Community and government partnerships are critical for the safety of the state's citizens and longevity of communities.

Long-Term Implications of Recent Disasters

The April 22 to May 25, 2022, disaster disproportionately impacted rural North Dakotans, many of whom struggled to find fuel for generators and to save livestock endangered by storm conditions. The losses extended to prime farmland inundated by recent rains at a critical time for planting. Analysis by the NDSU Center for Social Research indicates employment is heavily concentrated in agriculture within the affected counties. Statewide total farm employment is 29,603, of which 22,789 farm employment jobs are in the disaster impacted counties. Impacts extended to other vulnerable population groups, including immigrants, New Americans and foreign-born residents. Since 1997 Lutheran Social Services resettled 7,923 of the states 8,606 refugees in the Red River Basin cities of Fargo, West Fargo and Grand Forks, and 14,131 of the state's 32,389 foreign-born residents live in the impacted jurisdictions. The NDSU Center for Social Research also examined the numbers of North Dakotans ages 65 and older and individuals with disabilities. Data showed 63,381 of 116,406 of the state's population ages 65 and older live in the disaster area and 44,156 of 81,310 of the state's disabled population live in disaster counties. Of the seniors (age 65 and older) that live in disaster counties, just over half or 20,825 seniors live alone.

These vulnerable population groups have endured repeated disasters in their areas with drought as the most recent event. Drought conditions of the past two years reduced fields to stubble as producers looked well past the state's borders to find hay supplies. Farmers and ranchers struggled to maintain operations as they dealt with a 60 percent or greater reduction in hay production and 50 percent or greater decrease in range and pasture production. In 2021, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack designated 48 North Dakota counties as primary natural disaster areas.

Our livestock producers were especially hit hard by this year's late spring blizzards that occurred during calving season. Nikki Winter, who ranches with her father south of Alexander along the Little Missouri River, drove through blinding snow during the April 12-14, 2022, blizzard to find and care for newborn calves and their mothers. Cattle clustered near trees or corners of pastures to avoid the storm, often trampling on other cows and newborn calves, and knocking down fences. The storm that followed on April 22-April 24 compounded losses as the Winter family hauled animals to safety, bottle fed newborns, moved a generator from building to building to keep both animals and people warm, paid for veterinarian bills, costly feed supplements, and minerals and vitamins. Extreme conditions increased already high operational costs. Many cows and calves that survived required treatment for pneumonia. Others suffered deformities when freezing rain caused body parts such as tails and ears to freeze and fall off, greatly reducing their marketability at auction.

Greg Heller, who also ranches near Alexander, suffered devastating losses to his herd. Mr. Heller and his daughter spent days in a four-wheel tractor caring for his herd, never shutting the vehicle off and constantly refueling at higher than average prices. As 12-foot snow drifts receded, he discovered more dead cows and calves and is now considering selling half of his herd. Losses extend well beyond the numbers of dead cattle. Breeding takes years of careful planning. As Mr.

Heller said, “You are selling a chunk of your life. You work hard to get these quality cows. It takes generations and now you have to sell them. A loss could mean a setback of eight to ten years to get herds back where you need them. You are talking about proud, really strong people brought to their knees.”

While livestock producers struggle to retain their herds, flooding prevented farmers in eastern North Dakota from reaching their fields. Frayne Olson, NDSU Crop Economist and Marketing Specialist, anticipates prevented planting this year will be near record levels. The May 31, 2022, North Dakota Crop Progress and Condition Report, issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), supports this assertion, indicating the planting season is well behind last year and the five-year average for this time of year. Producers surveyed indicated soybean planting was at 23 percent compared to 86 percent last year and 70 percent for the five-year average. Corn planting was lagging at 56 percent compared to 92 percent last year and the 83 percent five-year average. Spring wheat planted was 59 percent compared to the 97 percent last year and the 91 percent average. Emerged spring wheat was 22 percent, well behind 73 percent last year and the 64 percent average. Durum wheat planted was 46 percent compared to 87 percent last year and the 86 percent average. Emerged durum wheat was 14 percent in contrast to 48 percent last year and the 49 percent average. Producers are also contending with limited supplies of fertilizer that have more than doubled in price, as have many other vital inputs.

Our rural communities, heavily dependent upon our agricultural producers for tax revenues, bear the financial brunt of recent disasters in our state. Within the past five years, North Dakota received seven Presidential disaster declarations, four of which were declared in 2020. Currently, North Dakota has six open disasters for flooding and severe storms and one for the COVID-19 pandemic, totaling more than \$183.2 million in costs.

Repeated flooding and storms make it difficult for these jurisdictions to continue meeting cost shares required to repair damaged infrastructure. The first of the seven open disasters, DR-4323-ND, occurred in 2017 when overland and riverine flooding during a protracted spring snowmelt season caused nearly \$7.2 million in damages. Two years later in 2019, North Dakota was designated a disaster area for DR-4444-ND, when a 39-day flood fight created \$10.7 million in damages. Later that fall, an early winter storm disrupted harvest, generating heavy rain before transitioning to nearly 30 inches of heavy snow that blanketed prime farmland, decimating unharvested crops. Subsequent rapid snowmelt created a rare fall flood that required federal aid provided through DR-4475-ND to address the \$14.6 million in damages.

North Dakota received another flood disaster declaration, DR-4553-ND, when high ground saturation contributed to overland and riverine flooding in 2020, causing an estimated \$11.7 million in infrastructure damages. A few short months later, North Dakota was again declared a disaster area, DR-4565-ND, for severe storms and flooding on June 29-July 1, 2020, that caused an estimated \$2.8 million in damages. The most recent declaration, DR-4613-ND, occurred June 7-11, 2021, when a severe weather pattern ripped across the state for five days producing tornadoes, up to baseball-size hail, damaging winds of up to 93 mph and torrential rainfall that led to overland flooding. Costs to date total \$2.7 million. The state has a seventh open disaster, DR-4509-ND, for the COVID-19 pandemic. NDDDES has worked with its federal partner, the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to obligate more than \$133.4 million in relief to our communities. The need for COVID-19 relief continues with an anticipated \$30 million in additional costs, if not more.

In total, North Dakota has received 41 disaster declarations within 29 years, including the catastrophic flood event of 2011, DR-1981-ND. Communities spent 11 years rebuilding from this \$1 billion disaster that was officially closed at the federal level in 2021. Attachment C: *ND Presidential Disaster Declarations: 1993-2021* illustrates the frequency of disasters in our state.

Commitment to Resilience

NDDES has an active and progressive mitigation program that has an Enhanced Mitigation Plan in place. Completed mitigation projects and plans have proven to be effective resulting in substantial loss reduction statewide. While impacts were historic during the April 22-May 25, 2022, storm and flood, they could have been far greater especially along the Red River Valley. The state and its partners have put in great amounts of effort, energy and money into mitigation proving North Dakota's commitment to resilience. North Dakota has enacted 457 total projects through the federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program since 1997 with a total of \$286,451,643.77 spent just on mitigation. In 2020, Pew Charitable Trusts found that with complex budgeting mechanisms in place and using all levels of government the return on the investment of mitigation varies by state. Results came to find that North Dakota saved \$6.54 per \$1 invested bringing the state to be in the highest category of savings. This brings the total to \$1,873,393,750.26 saved simply from data-informed initial investments of mitigation dollars.

Through the use of state and federal mitigation programs, North Dakota has completed home acquisitions from floodplains, infrastructure protective measures, storm water management projects, and currently holds an *Enhanced Mitigation Mission Area Operations Plan*. North Dakota's enhanced mitigation plan was approved by FEMA on February 6, 2019, proving that the state is compliant with all federal regulations. In addition to compliance, the plan reflects close collaboration with 84 local, state and tribal jurisdictions, private organizations, utilizing a whole community approach. These programs strengthen our communities and prevent further impacts from natural and technological hazards. FEMA has served an integral role of supporting the State Hazard Mitigation Team to enact mitigation initiatives whenever possible to help prevent damages to property and ultimately save local, state, tribal and federal taxpayer dollars.

Conclusion

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.36, I have determined severe winter storm conditions and subsequent flooding were of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery are beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments. For the reasons described in this letter and its supporting documentation, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster, with an incident period starting April 22, 2022, and ending May 25, 2022, for the counties of Adams, Barnes, Billings, Bottineau, Burke, Cavalier, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Foster, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mountrail, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells, and Williams County. I also request North Dakota be designated as a

Public Assistance Managing State, as it has in previous disasters, and that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program be implemented on a statewide basis.

I certify for this major disaster that the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shares of costs required by the Stafford Act 93-288. Enclosure A is my certification that the expenditures and obligations will include the non-federal shares of costs required by PL 93-288, as amended. Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) indicate that damages are expected to exceed \$57 million, of which \$22.7 million has already been validated by FEMA as detailed in Enclosure B.

I have designated MG Alan S. Dohrmann and Homeland Security Director Darin Hanson as the State Coordinating Officers (SCOs) for this request. They will work with FEMA to coordinate damage assessments and may provide further information or justifications on my behalf.

Thank you for your consideration of my request for a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration for the State of North Dakota and for your continued support as we recover from an unprecedented number of disasters.

Sincerely,



Doug Burgum
Governor

Enclosures: Enclosure A: Governor's Certifications
Enclosure B: North Dakota Preliminary Damage Assessment

Attachments: *Figure 1: North Dakota Declared Counties*

Attachment A: *Analysis of the April 22-24 Storm, ND*

Attachment B: *NDDDES Summary for the April 22-24, 2022 North Dakota Blizzard and Subsequent Flooding Through Mid-May*

Attachment C: *ND Presidential Disaster Declarations: 1993-2021*

CC: Senator John Hoeven
Senator Kevin Cramer
Representative Kelly Armstrong
MG Alan S. Dohrmann, Director, North Dakota Department of Emergency Services
Darin Hanson, Director, North Dakota Division of Homeland Security
Justin Messner, Disaster Recovery Chief, North Dakota Division of Homeland Security