

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
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HEALTH, EDUCATION,
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SMALL BUSINESS

June 17, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today to urge expeditious approval of Governor Terry Branstad's request that Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont Counties receive a federal declaration of a Major Disaster. This declaration will allow federal aid to immediately supplement state and local response efforts.

The individuals and governments in the areas mentioned above have taken extraordinary steps in order to fight oncoming flood waters from the Missouri River, and have spent millions of public and private dollars in order to mitigate the effects of this flood. For that reason, Governor Terry Branstad issued a State Disaster Proclamation for these counties on June 2, 2011. The cost of the flood fighting effort is evident from cities such as Sioux City to communities downriver as far as the town of Hamburg. Every community near the river has been impacted.

As Governor Branstad's disaster declaration request indicates, significant manpower and equipment available at the state, county, and local level have been dedicated to responding to the Missouri River flood. The preliminary damage assessment completed by local and state emergency management staff in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency officials has confirmed severe cost.

I therefore urge you to assist the State of Iowa and the affected counties in every way possible so they may quickly recover from this disaster. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator