

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 18, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

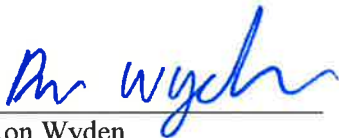
Oregon communities have suffered significant losses as a result of severe storm systems occurring April 6 through April 21, 2019. These weather systems included heavy rain, snow melt, flooding, landslides and mudslides, creating stress on emergency resources and financial hardships particularly for rural communities with small populations and scant resources. Oregon Governor Kate Brown has requested a Presidential major disaster declaration for this April 6 through 21 period. Six Oregon counties have suffered damages severe enough to qualify for the Public Assistance program: Curry, Douglas, Grant, Linn, Umatilla and Wheeler. Further, the Governor is requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the entire state of Oregon for that time period.

Heavy, and in some areas unprecedented, rainfall occurred over the state of Oregon during this period; these persistent and heavy rains combined with snowmelt runoff from winter storms in February 2019, set the stage for flooding, landslides and mudslides that closed major highways, carried debris onto roadways, and damaged bridges and other public infrastructure.

Data show that eligible damages in the six counties for which the state of Oregon is requesting Public Assistance totals more than \$8.2 million, a particular challenge for smaller rural communities. In one highly rural county with a struggling economy, public damage levels added up to more than \$700 per person.

As you are aware, a federal disaster declaration sets in motion the ability for local governments, homeowners, and businesses to be eligible for loans, insurance relief, and other assistance. This relief is desperately needed by these communities to rebuild and get back to a normal routine. We thank you in advance for your expedited review of this declaration request and look forward to working with you to rebuild Oregon's towns and economies.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Peter A. DeFazio
United States Representative



Greg Walden
United States Representative