

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 30, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to support Oregon Governor Kate Brown's request for a Presidential disaster declaration, as well as eligibility for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the entire state of Oregon for the period of February 23 through 26, 2019. Furthermore, we support her request for public assistance for the following counties: Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jefferson and Lane.

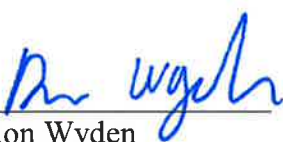
Communities in Oregon have suffered significant losses as a result of the February 23 through 26, 2019 snow and weather events, which have had devastating consequences on our local economies. Data shows that eligible damages for which the state of Oregon is requesting public assistance totals more than \$30 million, a very large hit to the five counties' smaller rural communities involved.

This winter's severe winter storm brought in cold Arctic air and included heavy wet snows, freezing rain, heavy rains, flooding, and numerous landslides, which all contributed to road closures, structural losses, extended periods of loss of power and heat, and needs for emergency services for the most vulnerable Oregonians. Most significantly, there was a fatality in Douglas County due to downed trees. A number of communities, such as Elkton in Douglas County and Oakridge in Lane County were cut off from power and any outside assistance. Over 100,000 residents were without power during this event, with restoration of power often taking several weeks to nearly a month due to the severity of damages and lack of accessibility from impassable roadways. Hwy 101 in Curry County continues to have only one lane open due to a landslide.

As you know, 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 to rebuild and get these communities 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



Kurt Schrader
United States Representative



Earl Blumenauer
United States Representative



Suzanne Bonamici
United States Representative



Greg Walden
United States Representative