

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 21, 2022

The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to you in support of Governor Kristi Noem's request for a major disaster declaration covering the South Dakota counties of Butte, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, McPherson, and Spink. This declaration would greatly assist in recovery efforts from significant weather events occurring June 11, 2022, through June 14, 2022.

Much of the western and central South Dakota plains experienced extreme weather during the specified timeframe that involved severe thunderstorms with golf ball to grapefruit size hail and wind gusts of 80 to 95 miles per hour. The last of these storms produced winds over 120 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service. These winds caused extensive damage to homes and businesses, agriculture, and public infrastructure, such as rural electrical cooperative power lines and telephone poles. More than 6,000 residents experienced power outages, many of whom were left without power for several days.

Unfortunately, South Dakota was in the midst of recovering from multiple natural disasters when these storms occurred, and, since then, has been battered by more devastating storms. The resilience and resourcefulness of South Dakotans in recent months has been extraordinary, however, as losses mount, the people of our great state hope the federal government will join in their restoration efforts.

In light of these considerations, we urge you to approve Governor Noem's request as soon as possible so that the necessary federal resources are available to assist relevant areas of our state. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our offices with any questions. We thank you for the support you have already offered, and respectfully ask for your continued attention and assistance in providing the resources necessary to ensure the safety of South Dakotans.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator



M. MICHAEL ROUNDS
United States Senator



DUSTY JOHNSON
Member of Congress