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June 17, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write in support of Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman's request for an Emergency Declaration due to the severe flood conditions in the Upper Midwest.

As you may know, unprecedented spring rains and the melting snow have contributed to flooding which has severely impacted the state of Nebraska. The Missouri River Basin has overflowed, and water from Lake McConaughy and from reservoirs in Wyoming have exacerbated flooding in the North Platte River. These events have severely impacted the homes and businesses of Nebraskans who live in these areas, and waters are likely to stay above flood level in many areas until Labor Day.

As you know, States are allowed to request Emergency Declaration Assistance under the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207) to assist their efforts to reduce the effects of natural disasters and prevent more damage. This assistance is intended to help support coordination of relief, technical assistance, debris removal, grants to individuals and families to help with temporary housing, and other state and local relief operations.

Governor Heineman's request comes at a critical time for our state, as Nebraska emergency managers try to mitigate the effects of the flooding. I believe an emergency declaration would be a prudent step to help Americans along these rivers.

I urge you to grant his request.

Sincerely,



Mike Johannis
United States Senators

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