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July 13, 2011

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

Dear Mr. President:

I write with urgency today in support of Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman's request for a federal disaster declaration for the State of Nebraska. Nebraska has suffered numerous disasters resulting from severe storms and flooding. Both higher than normal snowmelt from the mountains and extraordinary rainfall this spring have resulted in record river flows and floods in the North Platte River and Missouri River Systems. These have been exacerbated by releases from upstream dams by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Significant flooding is expected to continue through Labor Day. Approximately 145,000 acres of cropland throughout the State of Nebraska have been directly impacted by flooding and over 250 homes have been damaged or destroyed. In addition to cropland and homes, businesses, public buildings and roads have also been damaged, putting the very livelihoods of families across Nebraska at stake. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency estimates damages to be over \$60 million.

Nebraskans have faced natural disaster crises in the past, and I have every confidence they will rise to the challenge of minimizing the affects of the flooding as much as possible. That said, the extent of damage throughout Nebraska requires federal assistance. Today, Governor Heineman requested a federal disaster declaration for 29 counties to assist in responding to and minimizing the tremendous impact these major disasters will have on our state. Assistance to our public officials working around the clock to mitigate flood damage, as well as individual assistance to Nebraskans forced to leave their homes will be crucial. I fully support Governor Heineman's request and appreciate your sincere and prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Mike Johanns
United States Senator

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