

MIKE JOHANNNS
NEBRASKA

404 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4224
(202) 228-0436 FAX
(202) 228-4285 TTY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
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August 31, 2012

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

Dear Mr. President:

I write in support of Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman's request for a major disaster declaration related to recent fires in Brown, Boyd, Cherry, and Keya Paha Counties in Nebraska. More than 75,000 acres have burned in north central Nebraska. Structures, roads and communications towers, electrical power systems, and other infrastructure in the counties experienced significant damage because of the fires in late July.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency estimates that costs and damage from the fires will exceed \$5.4 million. The state and local communities incurred costs related to emergency protective measures associated with fighting the fires. Public assistance that facilitates the rebuilding of important infrastructures, such as electrical power systems and roads, will be essential in assisting the affected communities.

As Nebraskans have proven time and time again, they are ready and willing to work together to recover from the challenges of natural disasters. However, at a time when these communities are facing daunting recovery efforts, it is especially important to let them know that the Federal Government is willing to provide assistance with the recent fires. I fully support Governor Heineman's request and appreciate your sincere and prompt consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Johanns
United States Senator

LINCOLN OFFICE
287 FEDERAL BUILDING
100 CENTENNIAL MALL NORTH
LINCOLN, NE 68508
(402) 476-1400
FAX: (402) 476-0605

OMAHA OFFICE
9900 NICHOLAS STREET
SUITE 325
OMAHA, NE 68114
(402) 758-8981
FAX: (402) 758-9165

KEARNEY OFFICE
4111 FOURTH AVENUE
SUITE 26
KEARNEY, NE 68845
(308) 236-7602
FAX: (308) 236-7473

SCOTTSDLUFF OFFICE
115 RAILWAY STREET
SUITE C102
SCOTTSDLUFF, NE 69361
(308) 632-6032
FAX: (308) 632-6295