Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write today in support of the State of Montana's emergency declaration request as a result of the disastrous flooding that occurred in Northwest Montana from December 10-11, 2025. On December 16, 2025, Governor Greg Gianforte submitted a request for an emergency declaration under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. We support the Governor's request and urge its immediate approval.

On December 10-11, 2025, intense rainfall combined with snowmelt caused major flooding in Lincoln and Sanders County as well as on Blackfeet tribal land in Northwest Montana. Rivers in the area experienced flood stages of between 7.5 feet and 8.3 feet and caused major infrastructure damage, making multiple bridges impassable and causing the failure of the Lower Flower Creek Dam which regulates water distribution to the city of Libby. The failure of the Lower Flower Creek Dam has significantly disrupted water delivery operations in Libby, and emergency action was required to prevent further structural failure of the dam. As a result of that preventative action, water delivered to the city of Libby has a turbidity level above safe consumption standards, and elevated levels of metals in the water threaten to require a "do not consume" order. Northwest Montana's communities are facing the prospect of repairing damaged infrastructure without access to potable water.

The State of Montana needs assistance in first addressing the immediate crisis regarding the impacted dam near the city of Libby, as well as financial assistance to offset the costs of infrastructure stabilization and repair. We urge you to promptly approve this request for an emergency declaration and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Steve Daines

United States Senator

Tim Sheehy

United States Senator

Ryan Zinke

United States Congressman