

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

August 04, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington DC, 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write today in support of the State of Montana's major disaster declaration request as a result of the severe windstorm that occurred on June 10, 2021. On July 29, 2021, Governor Greg Gianforte submitted a request for a major disaster 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.

Beginning on July 8th northeastern Montana, including the counties of Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Richland, and Roosevelt, experienced three days of severe weather culminating on July 10th with supercell thunderstorms that had measured winds of up to 90 miles per hour, and damage that is consistent with winds up to 115 mph. As a result, more than 900 poles and lines were damaged, leading to thousands of Montanans being without power for up to two weeks. The damage done to transmission and distribution lines essential to everyday life for Montana families, farmers and ranchers, and businesses is far beyond what the state or consumer-members of our local electric cooperatives can alleviate. Noting the sheer number of disasters Montana has experienced over the last few years, including, at present, a severe drought and wildfire season, federal assistance is essential.

We urge you to promptly approve this request for a major disaster declaration and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress