

**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**DELEGATION OFFICE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224 - 8962**

May 4, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We respectfully request that you take immediate action on the recent request for a major disaster declaration from the State of New Mexico in response to the ongoing wildfires burning since April 5, 2022. The State is requesting Public Assistance, Category A and B, including Direct Federal Assistance for Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, Valencia, and San Miguel counties, as well as Individual Assistance, including SBA Disaster Loan Assistance, for Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, Valencia, and San Miguel counties. We ask that you expeditiously grant the declaration and make this federal assistance available as soon as possible for the State to have all the resources it needs to mitigate and recover from the devastation of the wildfires. Further, given the severity of the destruction and given much of the damage has occurred in rural and underserved communities, we request you waive the 25% non-federal cost share requirement for federal assistance.

Since April 5, 2022, wildfires in New Mexico have burned nearly 235,000 acres and have forced an estimated 40,200 New Mexicans to evacuate their homes and businesses, including more than 80 percent of the population of Mora, Colfax, and San Miguel counties. In Lincoln County, a wildfire near Ruidoso caused two fatalities and destroyed over 200 homes. The combined fire of Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon – the third-largest fire in New Mexico history – continues to spread and could risk 15,000 more homes. Additionally, fire officials have warned that high wind events could create “extreme fire behavior” further jeopardizing lives, residential homes, agricultural land, and public land. Federal assistance is of utmost urgency.

Due to the life and death nature of this crisis, we urge you to act without delay and approve the State of New Mexico’s request for a major disaster declaration. It is imperative that the federal

government provides full support to New Mexican communities to protect and recover from the ongoing wildfire devastation.

Thank you for your consideration to this important request.

Sincerely,



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MARTIN HEINRICH  
United States Senator



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BEN RAY LUJÁN  
United States Senator



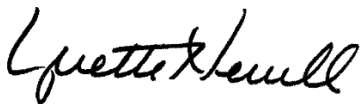
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MELANIE STANSBURY  
United States Representative



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TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ  
United States Representative



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YVETTE HERRELL  
United States Representative