

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 23, 2025

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

Dear President Trump,

We respectfully urge you to approve Governor Tina Kotek's request for a Major Disaster Declaration from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in response to flooding and other incidents that severely damaged Coos, Curry, Douglas, and Harney Counties in Oregon between March 13 and March 20, 2025.

A combination of flooding, severe storms, heavy rain, high winds, and landslides devastated both public infrastructure as well as residences and businesses in March. We therefore support the Governor's request for Public Assistance (PA) for Coos, Curry, Douglas, and Harney Counties so that impacted communities can more quickly recover from this disaster. We also request that FEMA provide support to eligible individuals and households affected by the disaster in Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties through Individual Assistance (IA).

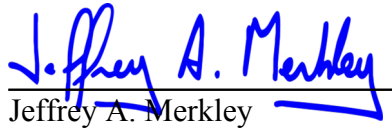
Additionally, we support the Governor's request for making the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) available statewide for this event. In addition to these recent historic floods, these counties have also experienced previous disasters including unprecedented wildfires and ice storms. Support through the HMGP can help these rural communities rebuild in a way that mitigates future disaster losses.

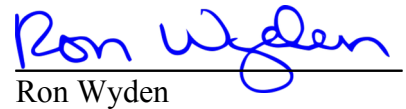
A wide range of weather impacts led to this disaster. Warm rains led to rapid snowmelt which contributed to severe runoff and erosion; wind gusts of over 45 miles per hour caused power outages and led to blocked roads; and three rivers reached major flood levels. In Harney County, a critical levee system protecting the City of Burns and members of the Burns Paiute Tribe failed, causing floodwaters to rapidly increase and inundate homes and agricultural fields.


Local leaders, first responders, volunteers, and neighbors stepped up heroically to protect lives and begin recovery efforts across Coos, Curry, Douglas, and Harney Counties. These are close-knit, self-reliant communities that have banded together to recover from these severe weather events and support one another. We encourage your administration to deliver the tools needed to protect lives, restore order, and get families back on their feet. Oregon has demonstrated its ability to successfully use federal disaster dollars in the past, and we are confident they will be effective and efficient with funds from FEMA should they be provided for this disaster as well.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Given the extent of the damage to both physical and social infrastructure across four counties, we urge you and your administration to act swiftly to ensure that State and Local governments have all the federal resources they need to recover and rebuild.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Val Hoyle
Member of Congress