May 12, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House, Washington, D.C.

Through: Acting Regional Administrator Nancy Dragani
FEMA Region VIII, Denver, CO 80225

RE: Request for Presidential Major Disaster Declaration

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act) and 44 CFR § 206.36, I respectfully request that a major disaster for the State of Montana be declared as a result of a severe winter storm that occurred from April 15, 2016, to April 16, 2016.

Weather System Conditions:

A strengthening low pressure system coupled with abundant moisture and cool temperatures moved over Montana on Thursday, April 14, through Saturday, April 16, 2016. This storm brought over one inch of precipitation to portions of north-central Montana with some locations receiving over two inches of liquid equivalent precipitation. Most of the precipitation fell as snow; nearly seven inches of snow was measured at the National Weather Service office in Great Falls. The official snowfall report of 6.9 inches broke the daily record snowfall for Friday, April 15, 2016, which was previously 3.6 inches set in 1894.

Though snowfall amounts varied across north-central Montana, several areas reported amounts of 4 to 8 inches with elevations above 6,000 feet receiving over one foot of snowfall. In some parts of Teton County roads were nearly impassable. With temperatures hovering around 32 degrees Fahrenheit, this snow was moisture-laden and very heavy. In addition, gusty north winds of 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph caused snow to drift across roads and quickly accumulate on trees and power lines, which led to downed trees and power lines causing wide-spread outages.

The heaviest snow fell during the early morning hours of Friday, April 15, 2016, which significantly impacted travel during the Friday morning commute over much of north-central Montana. Numerous vehicular accidents due to weather were reported and flights were delayed at Great Falls International Airport. As of 9:00 am on Friday, April 15, 2016, the Montana Department of
Transportation was reporting severe driving conditions for areas between Conrad and Dutton, Simms to Rogers Pass and Heart Butte to Choteau, Augusta and Wolf Creek.

Summary:

The combination of heavy, moisture-laden snow, gusty north winds and the unfortunate timing of intense snowfall during the morning commute on Friday, April 15, resulted in severe impacts over portions of north-central Montana, specifically Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, and Toole counties. Widespread and significant impacts to travel, commerce, roadways and infrastructure occurred. During its peak, electrical outages left approximately 21,622 residential and commercial customers without service. Utility companies including four rural electrical cooperatives and one for-profit provider suffered damage to at least 750 power poles, associated cross arms, distribution lines, and pole-mounted transformers. Pondera County suffered several miles of damage to primary and secondary roadways.

On April 15, I executed the State Emergency Management Plan with the activation of the State Emergency Coordination Center to a level four. A state disaster declaration was declared on May 12, 2016, with an effective date of April 15, 2016, for the counties of Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, and Toole counties.

A Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) was requested on April 22, 2016, and conducted from May 2, 2016, to May 6, 2016. The PDA teams were comprised of representatives from rural electric cooperatives, city, county, state and federal agencies. The results of the PDA are attached as form “Enclosure B.” The nature and amount of State and local governmental resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster is as follows:

- Emergency and Disaster Declarations from local government for the impacted areas;
- Implementation of emergency protective measures in Pondera County;
- State agency assistance with traffic control and roadway maintenance; and
- Activation of the State Emergency Plan including coordination with State Emergency Support Function primary agencies to assure an adequate and timely response.

Should this request for a Stafford Act Declaration be approved, a commitment to use State of Montana Disaster Funds to fund ten percent of the total eligible costs. Local applicants will assume fifteen percent of total eligible costs. The cost-share will be as follow: State of Montana 10 percent - Local Applicants 15 percent - Federal 75 percent.

Due to the number and magnitude of emergencies and disasters the past twenty-four months including flooding, severe storms, and a severe wildfire season during 2015, the costs of responding to the recent storm exceed the capability of the State of Montana.
President Obama
May 12, 2016
Page 3

The five counties for which we are requesting a major disaster declaration and their per capita totals are: Glacier at $8.07, Liberty at $121.46, Pondera at $171.98, Teton at $23.42, and Toole at $46.80. The figures captured in Enclosure B reflect uninsured losses only. The emergencies and disasters that have occurred in the State of Montana in the past three years are listed below.

State Issued Emergencies and Disasters for SFY 2013, SFY 2014, 2015 and SFY 2016:

EO 04-2013 Emergency - Flooding for Central and North-Central Montana Counties and Tribes.
EO 06-2013 Disaster - Flooding Damage in thirteen Counties and three Tribes.
EO 07-2013 Emergency - Rainbow Family Gathering in Beaverhead County.
EO 08-2013 Emergency - Hazardous Wildfire Conditions in South-West Montana.
EO 11-2013 Disaster - EMAC Assistance to Colorado for Flooding.
EO 03-2014 Emergency - March 2014 Flooding.
EO 07-2014 Disaster - EMAC Assistance to State of Washington for Wildfires
EO 08-2014 Disaster - Continuing EMAC Assistance to State of Washington for Wildfires
EO 09-2014 Disaster - Severe Storm Damage – Valley, Petroleum, Musselshell Counties, the Town of Ekalaka, and Fort Belknap Tribes.
EO 01-2015 Emergency - Oil Pipeline Release Dawson and Richland Counties
EO 07-2015 Disaster - Severe Storm Damage Powder River County
EO 10-2015 Emergency - Hazardous Wildfire Conditions Affecting forty-two Montana Counties
EO 11-2015 Emergency - Hazardous Wildfire Conditions Statewide
EO 17-2015 Disaster - Severe Wind Damage City of Glendive

Federally Declared Disasters:

Seven Fire Management Assistance Grant Declarations since 2012:

FEMA-5047-FM-MT - Lolo Creek Complex Fire
FEMA-5035-FM-MT - West Mullan Fire (Closed)
FEMA-5016-FM-MT - Saw Tooth Fire (Closed)
FEMA-2987-FM-MT - Corral Fire
FEMA-2988-FM-MT - Dahl Fire
FEMA-2989-FM-MT - Ash Creek Fire
FEMA-5008-FM-MT - 19 Mile Fire

The State of Montana is still in the recovery phase for Presidential declarations that remain open and have liabilities against the state general fund.

FEMA-4198-DR-MT - 2014 August Severe Storm and Flooding - Valley, Petroleum, Musselshell Counties, the Town of Ekalaka, and Fort Belknap Tribes
President Obama
May 12, 2016
Page 4

FEMA-4172-DR-MT - 2014 Spring Flooding - Twelve Counties
FEMA-4127-DR-MT - 2013 Spring Flooding - Eleven Counties, and Rocky Boy’s, Fort Belknap, and Fort Peck Reservations.
FEMA-4074-DR-MT - 2012 Ash Creek Fire - Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Powder River and Rosebud Counties. (Closed)
FEMA-1922-DR-MT - 2010 Flooding - Rocky Boy’s Reservation and Chouteau and Hill

I look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

Enclosures: Enclosure B – Montana Preliminary Damage Assessment
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

Burden Disclosure Notice
Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.
State of Montana

2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government’s damaged area(s).
989,415

3. Governor’s or Tribal Chief Executive’s Name
Steve Bullock

4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordination Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number
Delia Bruno 406-324-4777

5. Designation of Governor’s Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number
Delia Bruno 406-324-4777

6. Declaration Request For: □ Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) □ Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501(a))
   If requesting a “continuing” incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date □ April 15, 2016 □ April 16, 2016
   End Date □ April 15, 2016 □ April 16, 2016
   or □ Continuing

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)
□ Drought □ Earthquake □ Explosion □ Fire □ Flood □ Hurricane □ Landslide □ Mudslide
□ Severe Storm (rain, high water, wind-driven rain, hail, lightning)
□ Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data)
□ Tidal Wave □ Tornado □ Tropical Depression □ Tropical Storm □ Tsunami □ Volcanic Eruption □ Straight-Line Winds □ Winter Storm

□ Other (please specify)

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor’s or Tribal Chief Executive’s cover letter.
This winter storm began on April 15, 2016 with a very moist low-pressure system moving over North-Central Montana which produced liquid equivalent precipitation amounts of up to two inches over the region in the form of snow and rain. The official NWS snowfall report for Great Falls, Montana broke the record for April 15 with a total of 6.9 inches—almost twice the previous record of 3.6 inches. This storm and associated winds caused severe damage to over 760 electrical power poles and associated equipment including cross arms, lines, and transformers, leaving over 21,000 customers without service for up to five days. One jurisdiction sustained damage to primary and secondary roads. The storm also caused major traffic accidents, forced school closures, and delayed flights in and out of Great Falls International Airport.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor’s or Tribal Chief Executive’s cover letter.
The State of Montana activated the State Emergency Plan on April 15th with a level four activation of the State Emergency Coordination Center, which included coordination with State Emergency Support Function primary agencies. Local jurisdictions performed emergency declarations and conducted emergency protective measures including roadway closures and repairs to roadways and other infrastructure. Should a Stafford Act Declaration be approved, a commitment to use the State of Montana Disaster Fund to fund ten percent of the total eligible costs. Local applicants will assume fifteen percent of total eligible costs. Thus the cost-share shall be. State of Montana 10% / Local Applicants 15% / Federal 75%.
10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Assistance</th>
<th>Dates Performed</th>
<th>Requested</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
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<td>May 2, 2016</td>
<td>May 6, 2016</td>
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Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
N/A

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<td></td>
<td>April 22, 2016</td>
<td>May 2, 2016</td>
<td>May 6, 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
All jurisdictions had access. Delaying the PDA until May 2, 2016 allowed precipitation to drain and roadways to become navigable. This also allowed for eligible applicants to capture costs-to-date associated with repairs to infrastructure as well better estimate the costs of repairing remaining damage. The PDA was conducted in Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, and Toole counties.

11. Programs and Areas Requested

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<th>Individual Assistance</th>
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<th>Individuals and Households</th>
<th>Crisis Counseling Program</th>
<th>Disaster Unemployment Assistance</th>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation.

For States, identify Federally recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance for additional information in support of this request*.  

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request
11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance ☐ N/A ☒ Debris Removal (Category A) ☒ Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) ☒ Permanent Work (Categories C-G)*

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities, or Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Public Assistance for Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, and Toole counties. These jurisdictions received damages from the winter storm on April 15, 2016 through April 16, 2016.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

N/A.

Please see Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance for additional information in support of this request*.

Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

☐ I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

☒ I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Request for Direct Federal Assistance

☒ I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

☐ I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement, and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

Request for Snow Assistance

☒ N/A ☐ I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request
11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation* [X] Statewide OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date 11/01/2018

b. Type of Plan [ ] Enhanced [X] Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

[ ] I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies [ ] I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs for additional information in support of this request*.

14. Findings and Certifications

[ ] I certify the following:

a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on April 15, 2016 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

[ ] Cover Letter [ ] Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)* [ ] Enclosure B (Public Assistance)*

[ ] Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs) [ ] Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)

[ ] Additional Supporting Documentation

(Handwritten signature)

Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

12 May 2016

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request
# ENCLOSURE B

**MONTANA PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

Conducted May 2 - May 6, 2016

Estimates of Eligible Public Assistance Under PL 93-288, as Amended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>2010 Population</th>
<th>Category A</th>
<th>Category B</th>
<th>Category C</th>
<th>Category D</th>
<th>Category E</th>
<th>Category F</th>
<th>Category G</th>
<th>Total Estimated Damage</th>
<th>Dollars Per Capita</th>
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<td>1,940</td>
<td>72,747</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>983,476</td>
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<td>1,058,163</td>
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<td>Teton</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>142,239</td>
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<td>142,239</td>
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<td>Liberty</td>
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**TOTAL COSTS =**

0          | 1,940          | 72,747     | 0          | 0          | 1,767,050  | 0          | 1,841,737  |                      | $55.33             |

**STATE TOTALS**

989,415    |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |                      | $1.41              |

The population of Montana is 989,415 (2010 census).
## Enclosure B
### Montana Preliminary Damage Assessment

**Conducted May 2 - May 6, 2016**

Estimates of Eligible Public Assistance Under PL 83-288, as Amended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>2010 Population</th>
<th>Category A</th>
<th>Category B</th>
<th>Category C</th>
<th>Category D</th>
<th>Category E</th>
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<td>1,940</td>
<td>72,747</td>
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<td><strong>Total Glacier County</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>108,101</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>$108,101</strong></td>
<td><strong>$47,834</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total State Costs**

County Per Capita = $3.57

State Per Capita = $1.41

The population of Montana is 959,415 (July 1, 2010 Census).

**TOTAL STATE COSTS** = $1,841,737

Threshold Required = $1,395,075