June 23, 2017

Sonny Perdue, Secretary
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I have received a request for a Drought Disaster Designation by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from the Commissioners of Daniels, Roosevelt and Valley Counties due to the rapid onset of drought. In addition, the Fort Peck Tribal Council has declared a drought disaster for the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and the counties of Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Sheridan, Richland, McCone, Garfield, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Fallon, Carter, Custer, Powder River, Rosebud and Petroleum Counties and the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation are experiencing similar conditions.

These areas have only received 5 to 25 percent of normal precipitation since the end of April. May was ranked Montana’s 21st driest month in 122 years of records. Many of the National Weather Service stations in Northeastern Montana recorded the lowest precipitation levels ever.

As of this week, Daniels, Garfield, McCone, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Valley Counties are eligible for a Secretarial Designation based on their designation on the drought monitor as being in “D3 – Extreme Drought.” I request that the other jurisdictions mentioned above also be included in a Designation.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the State Farm Service Agency office so they may begin the process of compiling the necessary damage assessment information.

Your prompt review and approval of this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor
Cc:  Hill County Commissioners  
     Blaine County Commissioners  
     Phillips County Commissioners  
     Valley County Commissioners  
     Daniels County Commissioners  
     Sheridan County Commissioners  
     Roosevelt County Commissioners  
     Richland County Commissioners  
     McCona County Commissioners  
     Garfield County Commissioners  
     Dawson County Commissioners  
     Prairie County Commissioners  
     Wibaux County Commissioners  
     Fallon County Commissioners  
     Carter County Commissioners  
     Custer County Commissioners  
     Powder River County Commissioners  
     Rosebud County Commissioners  
     Petroleum County Commissioners  
     Fort Peck Tribal Council  
     Fort Belknap Tribal Council  
     Ben Thomas, Montana Department of Agriculture  
     Mike Honeycutt, Montana Department of Livestock  
     Major General Matthew T. Quinn, Department of Military Affairs  
     Delila Bruno, Disaster and Emergency Services  
     Amy Webbink, Montana State Farm Service Agency  
     Cheri Kilby, Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator