

United States Senate

March 30, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington DC, 20500

Dear President Trump,

I am writing in support of the State of Montana's major disaster declaration request and urge its immediate approval. Montana has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and immediate federal assistance is necessary to continue mitigating this disaster.

On March 27, 2020, Governor Bullock submitted a request for a major disaster under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Presently, there are 171 COVID-19 cases throughout the state, and that number is expected to rise exponentially in the coming weeks. In addition to the public health toll, measures enacted to contain the outbreak have also had a devastating impact on the state's economy and workforce. Approval of the disaster declaration will open up much needed funding through programs such as the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program, which will provide crucial support to workers who have been impacted by this pandemic through no fault of their own.

As evidenced by declaring a national emergency on March 13, 2020, slowing and containing the spread of the coronavirus is the responsibility of the federal government. I urge your immediate approval of the major disaster declaration and look forward to continuing to work with you on behalf of the American people in this time of national crisis.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator

cc: Administrator Peter T. Gaynor, Federal Emergency Management Agency