

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Administration Building, Room 100-A  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We write to urge you to approve without delay Governor Chris Gregoire's request to declare a Secretarial Disaster Designation for 29 counties in Washington state. This designation, requested on June 25, 2010, is essential due to the extreme weather conditions these counties have endured this year.

Conditions such as untimely and excessive rainfall and severe wind storms have caused considerable harm to crops. In particular, tree fruits, vegetables, hay and several varieties of wheat have been severely damaged, possibly compromising an entire harvest season.

In already difficult economic times, these damaging weather conditions have had a devastating effect on farms in throughout Washington, and could trigger a detrimental ripple effect on the state's economy.

It is clear that these conditions have already hurt countless Washington state farms, and the full extent of the damage will not be known until the end of the harvest season. These farms need the assistance that can be provided once a Secretarial Disaster Designation is declared. We urge you to approve Governor Gregoire's request so that this crucial assistance can be made available as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Norm Dicks  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



Brian Baird  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress

cc: Governor Chris Gregoire  
Director Dan Newhouse, Washington State Department of Agriculture

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