

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

May 23, 2011

Mr. William Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate,

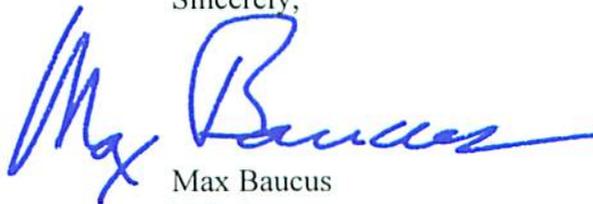
I am writing to urge your agency take steps now to support the disaster recovery effort underway in Montana and to be prepared to provide additional support in the event of a Presidential Disaster declaration. Flooding in eastern Montana poses a serious threat to Montana lives and property. Interstate 90 is closed south of Hardin and a number of communities are under water. Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail traffic has also been disrupted by flooding.

Yesterday, the Governor of Montana signed an executive order proclaiming a state of emergency statewide. Nineteen counties in Montana have also issued emergency declarations as well as the Crow Indian Reservation. The State of Montana is performing an assessment the total value of the flood damage. These floods come at a time with record snowpack in the mountains and rain in the forecast, which may lead to further flooding later this month.

I ask that you take every step within your authorities to support the disaster recovery currently underway in Montana, recognizing the limitations imposed by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 100-707). I also urge you to be prepared to quickly deploy every available FEMA asset in support of a preliminary damage assessment and the disaster recovery effort, should such support be requested by the Governor. It is essential that your agency provide a quick and thorough response to any request made in response to these floods.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Max Baucus
U.S. Senator