

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

June 15, 2011

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The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

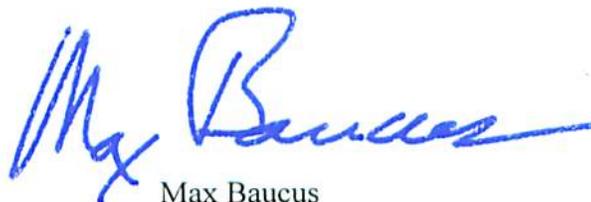
Thank you for your recent announcement to make \$600,000 in Emergency Watershed Protection Program funds available to Montana in order to assist with the flood recovery efforts underway in our rural agriculture communities.

Montana has wasted no time in putting these funds to good use and has obligated around \$440,000 for several projects already. However, this is not enough. It is my understanding that an initial assessment has estimated that an additional \$2 million will be needed for roughly 15 other projects across the state. Also, there are more than 115 other potential sites that the State Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has flagged in their Damage Survey Reports as in potential need of Emergency Watershed Protection Program funds.

Therefore, while I greatly appreciate your work to get some much needed funding to Montana's communities most affected by the flooding, I urge USDA to direct additional resources to Montana for the Emergency Watershed Protect Program.

Again, thank you for your quick response in providing preliminary resources for Montana's flood recovery. I also appreciate your consideration of my renewed request and look forward to working with you to assist Montana's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Max Baucus
U.S. Senator