Congress of the United States Washington, D.C. 20510

November 18, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We strongly support Governor Jared Polis's request on November 12, 2025, for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration and Public Assistance for La Plata County, Archuleta County, and Mineral County, Colorado, in response to the historic and devastating flooding that began on October 11, 2025. As part of this request, Governor Polis has also requested the activation of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program for the affected counties.

Communities throughout La Plata County, Archuleta County, and Mineral County have suffered significant damage and losses as a result of heavy rainfall and severe, record-breaking flooding, including debris and mud flows that occurred from October 11 through October 14, 2025. These events destroyed homes, businesses, and private property, and caused extensive damage to wastewater systems and miles of county roads.

Governor Polis has requested a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for the period of October 11 through October 14, 2025. As outlined in Governor Polis' request, La Plata County, Archuleta County, and Mineral County have suffered damages severe enough to qualify for the Public Assistance Program. Successful recovery is essential to restoring the County's economy, which has already faced a devastating fire season in addition to the catastrophic effects of flooding on infrastructure and private property. Without additional support, residents could face drinking water disruptions, unsafe homes and businesses, and challenges accessing their property. In addition, residents are facing ongoing hazards from the flooding, including dangerous debris, and threats to water quality and drinking water infrastructure.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency validated \$13,820,036 in eligible damages in La Plata County, Archuleta County, and Mineral County. As the damage assessments continue, additional losses are likely to be identified.

As you are aware, a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration unlocks federal assistance programs to fund debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the restoration and mitigation of disaster-damaged facilities. These communities urgently need this support to recover and rebuild.

We thank you in advance for your expedited review and approval of the Governor's request for a Major Disaster Declaration.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Bennet

United States Senator

John Hickenlooper

United States Senator

Jason Crow

Member of Congress

Diana DeGette

Member of Congress

Brittany Pettersen

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Jeff Crank

Member of Congress

Gabe Evans

Member of Congress

Lauren Boebert

Member of Congress

be Neguse

Member of Congress