

DAVID LOEBSACK
2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

September 14, 2011

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The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I write in support of a recent request from Iowa Governor Branstad for a Secretarial Disaster Designation for 27 counties in the area of Iowa I represent. Damaging storms and a range of other weather issues have carved a path of significant damage across east central Iowa.

Specifically, the counties of Adams, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Fremont, Henry, Jefferson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Marshall, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Polk, Tama, Taylor, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington, Wayne, and Woodbury are included in this request. As we continue to struggle to recover from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, we must ensure our rural areas and our farmers are well-positioned to contribute to our economic recovery.

Recently, these counties experienced damage ranging from wind and hail damage, drought conditions, and damaged farm buildings, grain storage structures, livestock buildings, and equipment. The National Weather Service highlighted the damage by pointing out that in some of these counties wind speeds were recorded up to 105 mph, the equivalent of an EF1 tornado.

The Governor has worked with the Iowa State Emergency Board and the Farm Service Agency to determine the necessity of this request and found a request was in-line with the State Emergency Board's recommendation. A disaster designation will help ensure these communities can rebuild and continue to be productive in feeding the nation and contributing to economic growth.

I respectfully urge your timely consideration of this request and again express my support for the designation. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Dave Loeb sack
Iowa's Second District