

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Thursday, May 2, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are writing in support of President Jonathan Nez's request for a major disaster declaration for the Navajo Nation.

From February 21 to 24, 2019, the Navajo Nation endured historic snowfall and subsequent flooding. In preparation for this event, the Navajo Commission on Emergency Management declared a state of emergency on February 19, 2019, with the support of the Navajo Nation President, Jonathan Nez. Throughout this event, the Navajo Chapters and Nation Government coordinated efforts to clear roads and transport food, firewood and medical supplies to stranded citizens.

A Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment was performed by the Navajo Nation and FEMA Region IX between March 19 and 22, 2019. Their findings indicated that the Navajo Local Government Chapters expended \$534,892.84 conducting lifesaving and emergency protective measures. The Navajo Nation reports an estimate of \$443,643.45 in response to the incident.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.35, we ask that the Navajo Nation receive a major disaster declaration.

As you know, the Navajo Nation is a particularly impoverished region of the State of Arizona, with a median household income of \$27,389. Their poverty rate, 38 percent of the population, is more than twice that of the State of Arizona. These large expenditures for necessary lifesaving and protective measures puts necessary services for the Navajo Nation's most vulnerable citizens at risk going forward.

Mr. President, we respectfully request your swift consideration and approval of this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

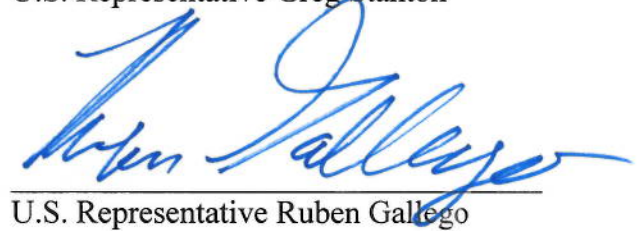

U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema

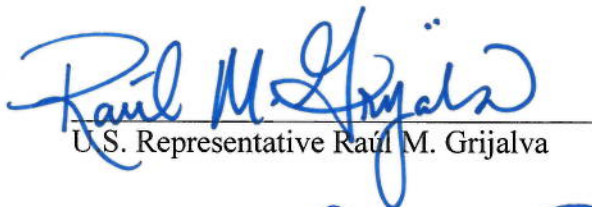

U.S. Senator Martha McSally


U.S. Representative Tom O'Halleran

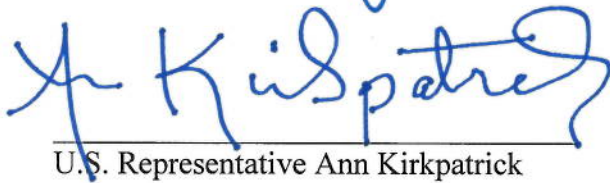

U.S. Representative Greg Stanton


U.S. Representative David Schweikert


U.S. Representative Ruben Gallego


U.S. Representative Raúl M. Grijalva


Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S


U.S. Representative Ann Kirkpatrick


U.S. Representative Andy Biggs


U.S. Representative Debbie Lesko