

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 21, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
219A Whitten Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We respectfully ask that you promptly grant the request made by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds for a Secretarial Disaster Designation for 57 Iowa counties that suffered losses as a result of the derecho that occurred on August 10, 2020.

The counties included are: Adair, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Cherokee, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Ida, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Monona, Monroe, Muscatine, Plymouth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Sac, Scott, Shelby, Story, Tama, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Webster, and Woodbury.

This severe storm swept through much of Iowa with sustained winds in excess of 100 mph. Within the requested 57 counties, there are 8.2 million corn acres and 5.6 million soybean acres. Based on satellite imagery and preliminary storm reports, approximately 3.57 million acres of corn and 2.5 million acres of soybeans can be seen to be severely damaged, with millions more acres affected to varying degrees. This is a potential loss of nearly 725 million bushels of corn and nearly 153 million bushels of soybeans.

Iowa producers have also suffered significant damage to houses, grain bins, barns, and other infrastructure critical to their farming operations and livelihoods. It is critical that you grant this Secretarial Disaster Designation that will make these producers eligible for resources that will help mitigate these significant losses.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Chuck Grassley in blue ink.

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Joni K. Ernst in blue ink.

Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Abby Finkenauer in blue ink.

Abby Finkenauer
United States Representative

Handwritten signature of Dave Loebsack in blue ink.

Dave Loebsack
United States Representative

Handwritten signature of Cindy Axne in blue ink.

Cindy Axne
United States Representative

Handwritten signature of Steve King in blue ink.

Steve King
United States Representative