NORTH Dakota | Office of the Governor

Be Legendary.™

January 26, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Nancy Dragani, Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region VIII
Denver Federal Center
Building 710, Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225-0267

RE: REQUEST FOR A PRESIDENTIAL MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the State of North Dakota, we appreciate the support your administration has provided to our citizens. The state's whole community has been in a consistent cycle of response and recovery to considerable and variable disaster events. Our citizens continue to prove their resilience through the numerous disasters that impacted our state over the past five years such as the COVID-19 pandemic, a historic drought, wildfires, extreme flooding events, and severe winter/ice storms.

Since 2019, the State of North Dakota has received 10 federally declared disaster declarations, with the majority being related to extreme weather events. This winter has been historically unique with its range of warm and cold temperatures across the state. Consistent warm weather fluctuations throughout our historically cold months in North Dakota have brought upon rain, snow, and freezing rain. This led to extreme, dense ice impacts from December 25, 2023, to December 27, 2023, as Mother Nature showed her strength by rapidly freezing and covering eastern North Dakota in a thick ice blanket creating significant adverse conditions and causing severe infrastructure damages. Due to the impacts of this weather event, North Dakota asks for federal support during our recovery from the substantial damages that occurred during the December 25, 2023, to December 27, 2023, severe winter ice storm. Pursuant to Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.36, the State of North Dakota requests a major disaster declaration due to the intensity and severity of storm impacts identified across the state.

Weather Summary

600 East Boulevard Avenue | Bismarck, ND 58505-0001 | 701.328.2200 | governor.ND.gov

After three years of a persistent but moderate La Niña climate pattern, the sudden shift to a strong El Niño pattern has resulted in historically warmer temperatures across North Dakota throughout the month of December. Our state has a uniquely variable climate, but this recent period appears to have extended that variability beyond what has previously been documented in the historic record, based on data available from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). A strong El Niño climate pattern contributed to a record warm and wet month of December leading to a rain and ice storm that catastrophically impacted the late December holiday period for North Dakota.

Throughout December, temperatures shifted from near zero degrees to upwards of 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit. The average statewide temperatures for the month were a record 11.7°F above the recent 30-year (1990-2020) average, 14.1°F above the average of the past century, and 1.4°F above the previous record warm December of 1939, according to the National Weather Service (NWS). Such sustained warm periods are especially unusual for the end of December as this period has a high frequency of extensive snow cover and receives the least amount of solar radiation. Along with these exceptionally warm temperatures leading into the December holiday season, portions of the state received record amounts of precipitation, mainly in the form of rain and freezing rain. The National Weather Service (NWS) reports that some areas received over 3 inches of rain on a deeply frozen landscape, starting December 23, 2023, and continuing through December 27, 2023.

From December 23, 2023, into December 24, 2023, a stationary frontal boundary was set up along the North Dakota and Minnesota border. A stationary front is "a front between warm and cold air masses that is moving very slowly or not at all," as defined by the NWS. By Sunday morning, December 24, a developing surface low pressure center helped generate warm moisture flow and widespread rain into eastern North Dakota. From late December 24 through December 26, 2023, heavy snow and blizzard conditions developed across portions of South Dakota and Nebraska, well to the south of North Dakota. However, that storm system effectively pushed unseasonably warm (above freezing) and wet (high precipitable water) air into the lower to mid-levels of the atmosphere over North Dakota, and as this warm air circulated toward higher altitudes it pulled cooler air (from Canada) over portions of the state at lower levels in the atmosphere down near the surface. As the NWS stated, "This warmer air, moving over cold air at the surface, resulted in areas of snow over North Dakota." And as warmer air layers worked their way higher into the atmosphere, snow began melting as it fell and became rain. Throughout this entire period, land surface temperatures across North Dakota were well below freezing, causing the liquid precipitation to immediately freeze on contact with surfaces, otherwise known as freezing rain. The NWS reported widespread accumulations of one-quarter to 1 inch of freezing rain over the affected regions throughout the storm period.

Heavier bands of snow, rain, and/or freezing rain that began on the evening of December 25, 2023, along with widespread freezing rain that continued through the morning of December 27, 2023, created a thick layer of ice accumulations over vegetation, roads, electrical poles and lines, water systems, and other critical infrastructure. During the ice storm, wind gusts increased to more than 40 mph across a broad portion of southern and eastern North Dakota with a peak wind

speed of 67 mph measured near the town of Oakes in southeastern North Dakota. As this low-pressure system intensified, the freezing rain continued not only in the southeast, but it progressively expanded farther into the west and north, impacting numerous local and tribal jurisdictions.

This storm system resulted in significant rain and freezing rain accumulations over broad areas of the state. Total precipitation ranged from 2 to 3.3 inches across southeastern North Dakota and tapered to less than one half inch north of Grafton and west of Bismarck. This greatly exceeds normal December precipitation amounts by up to 400% in southeastern North Dakota and 200% or more east of a line from Edgeley to Valley City and up to Grand Forks. The combination of exceptionally warm late December temperatures combined with high rain and freezing rain totals over a deeply frozen landscape was highly unusual for the state. According to the NWS, ice storms are not atypical for North Dakota, however, the high amounts of ice accumulation received during this episode are quite rare.

Incident Analysis

As a state that is accustomed to all precipitation types, we have experienced intense weather conditions, but this storm proved impossible to mitigate. Rain began to drench the state while individuals and families from in and out of state were traveling to celebrate the holidays. Throughout the storm's duration, excessive rain fell on the largely frozen ground with little snow amounts to absorb any additional liquid precipitation in portions of southeastern North Dakota that impacted adjacent states' sub-basin drainages. Water on frozen soils produced rapid runoff into area ditches and streams resulting in an unprecedented December flood warning that was issued along select river points in the southern Red River Basin, according to the NWS. Rain turned to freezing rain and blowing snow created a wintery mix which rapidly deteriorated the roads from seasonally good conditions to extensive no travel advisories and several days of road closures, such as the closure of portions of I-94 and all of I-29. Paved and gravel roads plastered in sheer ice and blowing snow prevented surface travel due to life threatening conditions. Communities suffered extensive damage to power infrastructure, streets, culverts, storm drains, homes, properties, businesses, and other public facilities, etc. caused by rain, excessive ice, and a snowy mix.

Additionally, no area of the transportation sector was left untouched, as bus stations and airports delayed or shut down operations entirely. Air traffic experienced disruptions through cancellations and delays, including canceled flights at Grand Forks and Fargo International Airports for most of the day on December 26, 2023. Grand Forks Air Force Base reported there was hazardous black ice and slush impacting operations. Health and medical services canceled carrier routes that couldn't be locally accessed while asking patients to reschedule appointments. Debris from fierce winds scattered along roadways as trees and other vegetation were frozen and ripped from the ground. These treacherous conditions led to numerous vehicular crashes and injuries due to the high volume of traffic on the roads for the holidays, including visitors who aren't accustomed to winter conditions. Sadly, with ice being the significant safety factor, there was a rollover resulting in a fatality within Dickey County. Vehicles along with anything outdoors became enveloped in ice. Emergency response services faced disruptions due to the inability to move around the region causing some responders to become stuck which led to

delayed response times. Thankfully, most schools were on holiday break, but many county courthouses and businesses were forced to close due to these dangerous driving hazards. When able, plows began scraping what ice they could and salting pavement, but they had great difficulty staying on the roads as proven by a North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) plow that slid off a highway in the City of Mayville.

Not only was our transportation lifeline impacted, but the most impactful was the substantial amounts of power outages that put our residents in the dark and cold due to the loss of heating sources. Ice does not coat objects evenly, especially when there is wind involved. The accumulations of up to an inch of ice sagged ice laden powerlines, and high winds swiftly pulled electrical infrastructure down, snapping transmission lines and breaking over 2,000 poles and associated hardware resulting in millions of dollars in damages. Extreme ice accumulations significantly impacted an extensive portion of eastern North Dakota's electrical infrastructure. As poles and lines were whipped around, they sagged across infrastructure and roadways leaving low hanging wires scattered. Throughout the duration of the event, over 20,000 people lost power within multiple counties crippling local services that spanned across at least six Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs) that reported damages greater than expected for a typical winter storm.

Trees and tree limbs also cracked under the pressure of heavy ice and high winds adding damage to electrical lines, infrastructure and property as well as blocking access to buildings. The obstacles of debris, ice, and limited personnel in a rural state also created challenges for electrical crews to assess and respond to any damaged infrastructure. There were reports of ice falling on both equipment and crew members as they tirelessly worked to respond as quickly as possible. Challenging weather obstacles and safety issues resulted in widespread power outages lasting over 72 hours with some lasting weeks on end for thousands of residences.

Those who lost power became susceptible to the elements, notably those who are disproportionately vulnerable to disasters such as people with chronic illnesses, newborns, the elderly, or the unhoused. Age and certain conditions influence how the body regulates temperature, impacting the wellbeing of those who may rely on power to stay healthy. Ice on city roads and sidewalks made getting around extremely hazardous, especially for our elderly population and those with other physical impairments. Many of these significant populations depend on others for support and were unable to get assistance due to assisting agencies or individuals being unable to travel to them.

Electrical poles required for communications infrastructure were also impacted, putting a strain on connecting networks. Transmission lines snapped over many cross-jurisdictional RECs leading to power supply issues due to the nature of the electrical grid. Impossible travel with limited communications isolated some citizens to their homes and increased their risk of particularly hazardous conditions with little access to resources. "It is impossible for us to provide accurate restoral times, as we have hundreds of outages happening simultaneously throughout our service territory," reported Cass County Electric Cooperative. Communication disruptions created challenges for responders to determine the extent of impacts, associated needs, and providing alert and warning services, which ultimately limited information access for those relying on internet connection. Extended power outages that stretch from days to weeks

can lead to response and recovery uncertainty and can be detrimental to one's physical health, while also potentially impacting one's mental well-being by being forced into darkness for such lengthy periods. Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative expanded on this with their social media updates and through public relations campaigns highlighting the "hopelessness" that can be felt by those with no power in both urban and rural areas.

Larger population centers regained power at a moderate rate compared to rural areas in the state that saw extended outages. Some rural residents had taken preparedness measures and were able to utilize personal generators. Having a generator is a good temporary solution, but these rural areas become difficult to sustain by generator power for long periods of time due to their remote locations and limited access to fuel and other equipment. Without power, some cities were unable to pump fuel to keep backup generators running which added another complexity to finding available fuel sources. This led to fuel supplies eventually running out for many with generators, while many others did not have the option of utilizing a generator at all. Additionally, one county reported a large, local carbon monoxide poisoning scare because some individuals didn't have enough ventilation in their garages while running their generators in cold weather. Though there can be risks, generators became vital for those who critically needed power.

Whole community partners worked to mobilize resources through mutual aid requests, including opening multiple shelters to provide access to meals and warming locations in coordination with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD). Multiple factors led to further utility disruptions impacting local water and sewer systems, lift stations, and garbage disposal services which increased disaster impacts across multiple sectors. In some areas, water supply systems delivered to residents as normal, but the computer programs that normally regulate chemical additives had to shut down due to power system failures, and technicians were unreachable due to the holidays. This resulted in limited clean water access to those who were affected further exacerbating resources. Many sectors faced the issue of connecting to personnel due to the timeframe of impacts with many being out for the holidays.

The ice storm compounded economic hardships for multiple sectors, including agricultural producers who have already withstood catastrophic losses due to enduring drought conditions. The ice storm caused significant damage to mature shelterbelts that surround local farms and pastures, protecting their property and livestock from intense winds. Older tree plantings that were destroyed within shelterbelts created structural integrity issues and extended recovery as these trees have been long established. "The damage sustained by trees and windbreaks across parts of North Dakota due to the ice storm impacts the vital roles they play in communities and on the rural landscape. Tree damage significantly reduces the overall function and long-term benefits that windbreaks provide for wildlife habitat and to protect from wind and blowing snow in farmsteads and feedlots," states Thomas Claeys, North Dakota State Forester. However, farm production does not stop during an ice storm as North Dakota farmers support not only the state but serve residents of the entire nation.

Whole Community Partnerships

North Dakota communities continue to display grit and resilience when facing disasters. Essential collaboration efforts took place between whole community partners taking action to assist, report, and monitor impacts to ensure risk reduction to the state. Stakeholders diligently

supported response and recovery efforts to ensure life safety during a considerably devastating event. This coordination and collaboration at all levels helped to lighten the most severe of impacts on the state.

Due to reported disaster impacts, I issued Executive Order 2023-10 on December 29, 2023, to activate our State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) and activate state level resources to assist with response and recovery efforts statewide. Through this Executive Order, all state agencies were ordered to provide response resources and capabilities pursuant to their respective responsibilities detailed in the state emergency plan.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) in coordination with the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) and local law enforcement closed roadways and highways due to life-threatening conditions. NDDOT and NDHP additionally assisted motorists in need while relentlessly working to clear roadways and providing regular updates on road status, such as ongoing closures, travel advisories, and road openings. The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services – State Radio (NDDES-SR) coordinated with emergency responders, agencies, and local Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to gather and disseminate information while maintaining and monitoring normal dispatch operations. The North Dakota Health and Human Services (NDHHS) monitored and coordinated with long-term care centers and health and medical facilities that were on backup generator power. Additionally, the North Dakota Department of Emergency Service – Homeland Security (NDDES-HLS) coordinated efforts with state agencies and local emergency managers to maintain inter-agency situational awareness. NDDES coordinated with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) and other power companies to understand the scope of power outages, restoration estimates, and extent of damages.

Rural Electric Cooperative line/crew members faced with overwhelming emergency activities, worked diligently on power restoration efforts over many jurisdictions clocking lengthy hours. Freeing the lines from the anchoring ice was laborious and time consuming for all responders bracing for the cold. Mutual aid crews were dispatched throughout multiple service territories. To support these lifesaving efforts, when minutes truly matter, at least 175 electrical workers provided mutual aid between December 27, 2023, to January 6, 2024, and approximately 60 contracted line workers provided assistance from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, as reported by Christina Roemmich, Safety Director for NDAREC. Nearly all North Dakota cooperatives that were not receiving aid and/or once their systems were in good working order provided reinforcements to other impacted cooperatives including personnel from South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana. Throughout the holiday weekend and into the new year, crews were spread out working nonstop to replace or repair broken electrical equipment in hazardous conditions with what resources were available. While responding and recovering, they faced adversity with line breaks continuing into the following week due to fluctuating temperatures that caused ice to fall, snapping lines that resulted in breakers tripping. They additionally cleared vegetative debris, such as trees hanging on powerlines. According to the Cass County Electric Cooperative, "approximately 20,000 working hours were completed to restore power to all essential accounts by Friday, January 5." Additionally, RECs continued to send out updates to the public on pertinent power restoration recovery information and safety precautions through multiple platforms.

NDHHS, in stride with our local emergency managers, coordinated connections for shelter support and resources. NDHHS also worked on finding and activating a funding source for residents who purchased or rented generators that had confronted increased fuel costs to run these generators. Some expenses were able to be covered through assistance from the North Dakota Rent Program, while also administering a fuel reimbursement program. As all disasters start and end locally, our local emergency managers were essential to support citizens, while documenting and reporting information for overall situational awareness. County emergency managers (Logan and Stutsman counties) supported the opening of multiple shelter operations while coordinating through NDHHS to connect to nonprofit organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, and local first responders to find locations for warming and feeding operations. This was an essential life safety measure, as citizens showed up to get a break from the cold, or requested meals as they were unable to cook. Additionally, shelter staff delivered food donated by the Red Cross to residents in their homes.

Furthermore, a CodeRed message was disseminated through the local emergency manager (LaMoure County) in collaboration with NDHHS which provided locations offering sheltering options in hotels. In addition to the CodeRed, messages were sent out via social media encouraging residents to check on their neighbors to ensure they had proper shelter and food. The LaMoure County emergency manager additionally worked with local restaurants and grocery stores to provide meals to those in need. Many emergency managers focused on safety messaging to ensure their citizens had the proper resources and were secure during and post disaster. The importance of communicating with citizens to provide positive information to those experiencing deeply stressful circumstances is understood by our emergency managers and stakeholders. The Dickey County Health Department and a Dickey County Sheriff's Office checked on known shut ins providing welfare checks on those who couldn't be reached by phone.

Major cleanup operations were ongoing in cities to remove considerable debris and compile expenses. Some cities were able to utilize local contractors and volunteers to assist with clean up around fuel stations, post offices, restaurants, elderly resident's homes, and other areas where needed. The City of Fullerton (Dickey County) contracted with the county to spread sand and gravel over streets to get traction, as similar actions were being taken across jurisdictions. Whole community partners maintained situational awareness while readying resources, should they need to be deployed. The Dickey County Emergency Manager stated, "Contractors and county highway workers scrambled to find solutions to issues which we have never seen to this level before." The NWS reported, monitored, and assessed conditions across the state before, during, and after the event to provide insight to the state.

Long-Term Implications of Recent Disasters

North Dakota's electrical infrastructure has experienced heightened hardships in recent years. In April 2022, over $43 million in electrical infrastructure was damaged in western North Dakota leading to major disaster declaration DR-4660. Then in November 2022, an impactful and historic winter storm brought record breaking snowfall to central North Dakota and ice accumulations in the southeast destroyed electrical infrastructure costing more than $1.7 million in damages leading to another major disaster declaration, DR-4686. That disaster event, declared

just a little over a year ago, impacted some of the same electrical infrastructure that was destroyed during the December 25, 2023, to December 27, 2023, ice storm.

And most recently, from January 16, 2023, to January 20, 2023, a series of dense freezing fog incidents caused widespread impacts across the state coating the landscape with a thick layer of ice. This fog event was atypical as it brought rime ice and hoar frost, otherwise known as freezing fog which is not a common phenomenon in North Dakota. This freezing fog was accompanied by freezing drizzle, that weighed down thousands of power lines, broke poles, and snapped lines causing major power outages. Response required significant efforts by state and local governments to remove near-record breaking snow amounts to help access electrical lines and manually remove ice. The NDAREC has experienced extreme impacts on infrastructure continually damaging systems without time or resources to fully repair. Due to the strange nature of this January event, a request for a presidential declaration was applied for but not approved.

These weakened systems are vulnerable to everyday weather, especially when repetitively under significant stressors such as the impacts of the December 25, 2023, to December 27, 2023, event. Planners continually prepare for regular and irregular wear on power lines that experience some of the worst weather impacts. Structural and economic impacts continue and will remain into the future for companies and consumers. Inconsistencies in supply chains are experienced nationwide, especially materials related to the electrical infrastructure when some parts can take years to acquire. Our RECs work diligently to provide reliable services cross jurisdictionally to support our lives in North Dakota.

Consistent disasters bring about constant maintenance that extends recovery timeframes and produces additional vulnerabilities. Technicians work with what resources are available to fix weakened systems, but compounding years of wear and tear opens susceptibility to other hazards, such as cyberattacks. Disasters such as these will have lasting effects beyond just this winter. Electricity is a fundamental part of society helping to ensure access to basic goods, communication, health, safety, and the continued dependence on technology. Securing and hardening a robust system will help prepare for inevitable future events and ensure critical service availability.

Commitment to Resilience

The state upholds an *Enhanced Mitigation Mission Area Operations Plan* approved on February 6, 2019, being the third in the nation to achieve Program Administration by State (PAS) for both hazard mitigation grant management and plan review. The State Hazard Mitigation Team continues to strive to be a champion in mitigation while investing considerable energy during the 2023-2024 update to ensure continued enhanced status which means meeting stringent requirements. The plan emphasizes the contributions of over 80 local, tribal, and state jurisdictions and private organizations incorporating a whole community approach. Holding this enhanced status allows planning teams throughout the state to have a direct impact on the projects that are funded and completed in close collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Close involvement in the planning process provides the team with a vast understanding of the continuous and changing threats and hazards that face our local and tribal jurisdictions in North

Dakota. The collaboration with emergency managers and local partners helps identify the most effective mitigation projects creating reciprocity. Through FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs, the State of North Dakota has completed numerous projects to harden electrical grid infrastructure including the replacement of overhead lines with underground lines, relocating substations to remove them from hazard prone areas, and the installation of lightning arresters which is a device used to protect insulators and conductors. Additionally, mitigation actions are expanded around awareness, preparedness, procedures, training, equipment, and mutual aid assistance.

NDDES completed an Electrical Systems Resiliency study in 2023 to incorporate into the *Enhanced Mitigation Mission Area Operations Plan* that identifies and assesses the risks, hazards, and vulnerabilities associated with North Dakota's electrical grid. The State of North Dakota is the first state in the nation to prepare a robust evaluation of our electrical infrastructure from the emergency management perspective. The vulnerability assessment walks through identified hazards by evaluation of historical hazard data, risk mapping, network analysis, and overviewing recent severe events. Nearly all North Dakota electric cooperatives continue to implement mitigation activities and projects based on need and feasibility. This study highlights key ongoing actions and opportunities for advancements to address risks related to our identified hazards and threats that are posed on our electrical infrastructure. NDDES partnered in conjunction with the electrical sector to evaluate related reliability and to achieve resiliency improvements that will better prepare and protect North Dakota for a range of potential events.

This project highlights the proactive and progressive approach that the agency takes to ensure mitigation projects are efficient and effective. Within the last few years, our state has experienced considerable pressure on the electrical system. Agencies across the state are continuously working to combat the challenges the industry faces. Grid reliability is critically important as it supports our diverse systems that protect our citizens from extreme weather conditions. Additionally, the North Dakota Industrial Commission joined forces with three other states and two tribal nations in receiving the first Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The state was awarded $7.5 million with a $1.1 million state match that totals $8.6 million available over the 2023-2025 biennium to ensure the reliability of the power sector so that communities can have access to reliable, affordable, and clean electricity.

These efforts show commitment to resiliency by rooting our actions through our storied history, data, and collaborative learning. The program has enacted 491 total mitigation projects since 1997 with a total of $301,384,546.34 spent on completed mitigation efforts. Pew Charitable trusts found in 2020, that using complex budgeting mechanisms such as those used in North Dakota saves $6.54 per $1 invested. These savings bring the state to be in the highest category of savings in the country with a total of $1,971,054,933.06 saved. These amounts speak to the level of involvement and commitment put into creating and supporting a secure, resilient state.

Conclusion

North Dakota continues the dedication to the protection of human life and safety, public and private property, and the environment that shows precedence in our response and recovery efforts. Demanding weather systems are faced in stride with close communication and collaboration at all levels. In response to atypical weather, the citizens of North Dakota are

continually diligent and resilient. Whole community partners worked through all phases of emergency management to provide the best outcome with available resources.

Pursuant to 44 CFR§206.36, I have determined that the holiday ice storm was of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery are beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments. For the reasons described in this letter and its supporting documentation, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster, with an incident period starting December 25, 2023, and ending December 27, 2023, for the counties of Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Grant, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Stutsman, and Traill due to subsequent damages. The counties of Burleigh, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, and Wells were also impacted by this event but did not have enough damages to exceed their per capita thresholds.

As in previous disasters, I am also requesting North Dakota be designated as a Public Assistance Managing State, and that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program be implemented on a statewide basis.

I certify for this major disaster that the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shares of costs required by the Stafford Act 93-288. Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) indicate that damages are expected to exceed $11.5 million as detailed in Enclosure B.

I have designated MG Alan S. Dohrmann and Homeland Security Director Darin Hanson as the State Coordinating Officers (SCOs) for this request. They will work with FEMA to coordinate damage assessments and may provide further information or justifications on my behalf.

Thank you for your consideration of my request for a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration for the State of North Dakota and for your continued support as we recover from an unprecedented number of disasters.

Sincerely,

Doug Burgum
Governor

Enclosures: Enclosure A: Request for a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration
Enclosure B: Preliminary Damage Assessment Findings

Attachments: Attachment A: Jurisdictions Impacted by December 25-27, 2023, Severe Winter Storm
Attachment B: NWS Summary of December 25-27, 2023, Weather Event
Attachment C: ND Presidential Declarations (1993 – 2023)

CC: Senator John Hoeven
Senator Kevin Cramer
Representative Kelly Armstrong
MG Alan S. Dohrmann, Director, North Dakota Department of Emergency Services
Darin Hanson, Director, North Dakota Division of Homeland Security
Justin Messner, Disaster Recovery Chief, North Dakota Division of Homeland Security