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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

February 2, 2005

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On January 9-11, 2005 the Utah counties of Washington and Iron experienced catastrophic flooding. In addition to significant damage to personal property and community infrastructure, there was also sizeable damage to agricultural lands. The floods destroyed irrigation systems and covered over 5,000 acres of Utah's limited cropland with sediment and debris. After assessing the damage caused by the floods, Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. declared an agricultural disaster on January 28, 2005.

Governor Huntsman, in a letter dated January 31, 2005, requested that you declare a disaster in Washington and Iron Counties. I too believe the damage caused by the flooding in these counties warrants a secretarial disaster declaration. Therefore, I respectfully request you expeditiously review Governor Huntman's letter and declare a disaster in Washington and Iron Counties at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Bennett
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, and Related Agencies

RFB:fe

cc: The Honorable Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Mr. Leonard M. Blackham
Washington County Commission
Iron County Commission