

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 19, 2013

Governor John W. Hickenlooper  
136 State Capitol  
Denver, CO 80203-1792

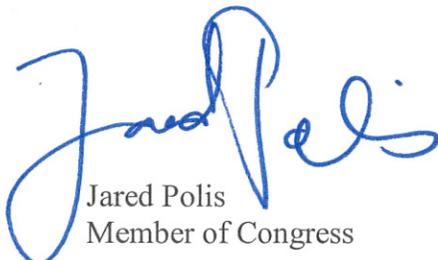
Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

We write to thank you for your work on behalf of our constituents over the last week and ask for your continued assistance. As you know, Colorado's recent flood was so dramatic that it is being referred to as a 500-year event. Boulder—an area with the average annual rainfall of twenty inches per year—received over sixteen inches of rain over the course of five days. Tragically, six Coloradans are either confirmed or presumed dead and hundreds are still unaccounted for. The floodwaters consumed more than 2,000 square miles across fifteen counties on Colorado's Front Range. Based on the latest estimates, over 2,300 agricultural properties were flooded and over 17,000 homes have been seriously damaged; 1,500 of which were completely destroyed. The status of several highways is still unknown due to lack of access; however, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) currently estimates that at least thirty bridges have been destroyed and twenty additional bridges have endured serious damage. Unfortunately, this is just a portion of the severe damage caused by the flood last week.

While a Major Disaster Declaration was declared for Boulder, Larimer, Adams, and Weld Counties, many more communities are experiencing the impact of these severe storms, including flooding, landslides, property damage, or mudslides. We respectfully request that a Major Disaster Declaration be made for Jefferson, Gilpin, and Broomfield Counties to assist them in their recovery efforts. These floods were of sufficient severity and magnitude that additional federal assistance is necessary in order to support state and local officials in their response to this crisis.

We understand the state is working with federal and county officials to conduct damage assessments to determine the extent of the impact on individuals and infrastructure throughout the impacted areas. These assessments are the first step towards evaluating the damage and requesting the additional federal assistance. We respectfully request your continued urgency in completing these assessments, and urge you to seek a Major Disaster Declaration as soon as possible for these counties to assist them in combating and recovering from the floods.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

  
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress