TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

April 26, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Ms. Beth Freeman, Regional Director
FEMA Region VII
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64114

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5208 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request you declare a major disaster for the State of Iowa as a result of a severe weather system, that produced tornadoes, high winds, heavy rain, large hail, and thunderstorms beginning on April 9-10, 2011. The storms moved into Iowa and severely impacted Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Pocahontas, and Sac counties.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate actions under State law and directed the execution of the Iowa Emergency Response Plan on April 9, 2011 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act.

A State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency was issued on April 9, 2011 for Monona County. A subsequent Proclamation was issued for Pocahontas County on April 10, 2011.

On April 20, a State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency was issued activating Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program for Buena Vista, Monona, Pocahontas, and Sac Counties. This proclamation was requested from the county

emergency management coordinators following the joint Federal, State, and local Preliminary Damage Assessments.

The State of Iowa has been proactive in hazard mitigation planning activities for many years. The State's planning process is driven by Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and is synchronized through the coordination and integration of local hazard mitigation planning with interagency planning of the State Hazard Mitigation Team. The State has an approved Enhanced State Mitigation Plan through September 18, 2013.

On April 13, I requested a joint federal, state, and local Preliminary Damage Assessment for: Buena Vista, Ida, Monona, Pocahontas, and Sac counties. On April 14, I amended hat request to add Cherokee County.

Listed below are the types of affected facilities and the adverse affects to the public and private sectors:

- Fatalities/Injuries: Fortunately, there were no fatalities as a result of the severe weather. However, there were injuries reported throughout the disaster area.

  When responding to the initial call after the tornado struck the City of Mapleton, a volunteer firefighter tripped over disaster debris and broke his leg. Several citizens in the city were treated for minor scrapes and bruises while cleaning the debris.

  Two injuries were reported in the City of Varina in Pocahontas County. A child, approximately 10-years old, was taking shelter with his family in the basement of their home which was directly in the path of the tornado. After the chimney of the house collapsed, momentarily pinning the child on the ground, his father was able to free the child, who was later treated for deep bruises on his back at a nearby hospital.

  An elderly woman, approximately 75-years old, was attempting to take shelter in her basement as the tornado hit, fell down the stairs and dislocated her shoulder.

- Agriculture: Tornadoes and straight line winds damaged and destroyed farm dwellings, outbuildings, equipment and livestock. The United States Department of Agriculture forwarded me Loss

Assessment Reports that provided a full picture of the damages experienced by agriculture producers. These reports indicate a loss of approximately $78,600,000 to farm dwellings, outbuildings, equipment, and livestock.

- Telecommunication: As a result of the storm, the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Pocahontas County went down and all calls had to be rerouted to Clay County for approximately two hours the evening of April 9 into April 10.

- Utilities: Power outages were experienced Mapleton (Monona County) as a result of the tornado. The majority of power was restored within 48 hours of the tornado striking the community. Natural gas was shut off to the customers in the city for 48 hours so the utility company and city could ensure the meters were working properly and could check for leaks.

- Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council/Voluntary Agency Response: Immediately following the tornadoes and storms, Iowa's voluntary agencies responded. The American Red Cross (ARC) and the Salvation Army mobilized to provide mass care feeding and canteen services in affected communities. The ARC opened one shelter in Mapleton immediately following the tornado on April 9. The shelter had eight people on April 9 and had no one seeking shelter the following night. It was reported that most people who needed housing, rather than staying in the shelter, chose to stay with friends or family. The shelter was then closed on the morning of April 11.

  On April 10, the American Red Cross reported one fixed feeding site had been established. Two emergency response vehicles were deployed to establish mobile feeding routes to the cities of Mapleton, Early, and other outlying areas. The Salvation Army also assisted with providing food, snacks and water to the affected communities.

  The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) convened its member agencies for communication and coordination via email and conference call on Sunday, April 10. IDHRC member agencies provided the following services: Adventist Disaster Response Team provided donations coordination support for unsolicited volunteers; United Methodists offered overall volunteer management for the City

of Mapleton; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance mobilized an assessment team on April 12 and coordinated outreach and service delivery to meet unmet needs; and Iowa Concerns Hotline and "2-1-1" fielded volunteer management intake for more than 2,000 offers from volunteers.

On April 11, the Salvation Army and American Red Cross had served 900 meals and 1,000 snacks throughout the day to citizens and responders.

The organization "Neighbors Across the Land" delivered several cases of heavy construction bags, work gloves, water and dust masks for clean up and recovery.

Additionally, the counties for which I am requesting a declaration are also still recovering from recent presidentially-declared disasters. While great progress has been made in these counties, each one is still working through three to six open disasters. The latest round of damage only serves to cause additional stress to these counties.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am requesting Public Assistance for all categories in the counties of Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Pocahontas, and Sac Counties. I am also requesting Hazard Mitigation "Statewide".

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosure B. The Governor's Certification is included in Enclosure D.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster: The State Emergency Operations Center was activated on April 9, 2011, and was staffed by the operations section and public information staff of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and members of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, as well as the 24-hour duty officer on call after normal working hours. Other departments and agencies were activated and their primary functions were as follows: Iowa Department of Transportation provided personnel and heavy equipment for clearing and

transportation of debris; Iowa Department of Natural Resources provided debris management/burn site expertise and water sampling teams; the Iowa National Guard provided lighting resources for the City of Mapleton; the Iowa Department of Public Safety/Iowa State Patrol assisted with security missions and supported traffic control points in the City of Mapleton, Monona County; the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division deployed the Iowa Urban Search and Rescue team to assist with search and safety operations in Mapleton; the Civil Air Patrol provided aerial imagery of the path of the tornadoes; National Weather Service provided weather forecasts for impacted areas and historical data; Iowa Department of Corrections provided inmates to assist with debris removal; Woodbury County Emergency Management Agency provided mutual aid, a communications, unit and activated its EOC for support; the Iowa Association of Building Officials provided building inspectors for the City of Mapleton to inspect private residences and commercial buildings for their safety.

I certify that for this major disaster, the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal Share of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed $1,324,542 in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

While I do not currently foresee the need for Direct Federal Assistance, I nevertheless make the request and if Direct Federal Assistance is provided, agree to the following stipulations:

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Iowa agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work;
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;
3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety.

> Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Patrick J. Hall as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
Under the Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Buena Vista	$21,096	$8,772	$3,040	$20,000	$23,000	$141,030	$0	$216,938
Cherokee	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$52,713.	$0	$52,713
Ida	$0	$2,500	$4,000	$0	$1,000	$88,710	$0	$96,210
Monona	$1,123,818	$180,000	$0	$0	$17,500	$233,000	$1,000	$1,555,318
Pocahontas	$73,936	$25,000	$52,010	$0	$2,500	$658,602	$2,200	$814,248
Sac	$51,294	$98,976	$4840	$0	$1,000	$2,333,588	$7,580	$2,497,278
Statewide	$0	$65,463	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$65,463
TOTALS	**$1,270,144**	**$380,711**	**$63,890**	**$20,000**	**$45,000**	**$3,507,643**	**$10,780**	**$5,298,168**

Note: Estimates are to reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.

ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share and costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT	
Individual Assistance:	STATE	LOCAL
"Other Assistance" under the Individual and Households Program	$	$
Other (specify)		
Total:	**$**	**$**
Public Assistance:		
Category A – Debris Removal	$ 127,014	$ 190,522
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	$ 38,071	$ 57,107
Category C – Roads and Bridges	$ 6,389	$ 9,584
Category D – Water Control Facilities	$ 2,000	$ 3,000
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	$ 4,500	$ 6,750
Category F – Utilities	$ 350,764	$ 526,146
Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	$ 1,078	$ 1,617
Total:	$ 529,816	$ 794,725
Grand Total:	**$ 529,816**	**$ 794,726**