Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the Washington state delegation, we write in support of Washington state's September 28th request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance due to devastating wildfire damages incurred from July 23 through August 31. We implore you to approve the request for assistance as quickly as possible.

A record-setting drought and an unusually small snowpack contributed to numerous large and fast-moving wildfires in Central and Eastern Washington, devastating communities in Benton, Spokane, Stevens, and Okanogan Counties, as well as on the Spokane Indian Reservation. These fires spread rapidly, jumping roads and rivers, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate quickly, with many escaping with little more than they could carry.

Local, state, and federal resources responded quickly to the wildfires. Firefighting crews from around the country, as well as international firefighting forces and the National Guard, deployed to Washington state to assist local first responders with evacuations and firefighting. While their heroic efforts helped to contain these devastating fires, federal assistance is required to support communities as they begin to rebuild. The fires destroyed over 2,500 structures, including entire neighborhoods, and forced tens of thousands of residents to evacuate their homes. Ultimately, over 650 primary residences were destroyed by these fast-moving wildfires, leaving hundreds of Washingtonians displaced.

Throughout this crisis, state, local, Tribal, and federal first responders have stepped up and worked tirelessly to keep our communities secure. We are incredibly grateful for their diligent work and careful coordination to keep Washingtonians safe and informed throughout this disaster, as well as for your prompt approval of the state's Emergency Declaration request submitted on August 2nd, which allowed for critical federal assistance that supported fire suppression, emergency shelter operations, and other vital needs. We reiterate our full support for the September 28th request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance. We appreciate you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Michael Baumgartner
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Emily Randall
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress