August 25, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Administrator Deanne Criswell  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. President and Administrator Criswell,

We write in strong support of the request by the Governors of California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, and Washington for a federal major disaster declaration for the drought in these states. Federal resources are needed to address these conditions and support our Western communities.

The Western United States is experiencing record-setting temperatures, coupled with historic dry conditions and devastating wildfires. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts that these conditions and high temperatures could last until November of this year across most Western states. The Bureau of Reclamation also recently declared a water shortage in the Colorado River Basin for the first time ever as a result of the drought, an alarming indication of the severity of this crisis.

There is little to no livestock feed available in the West, farmers are considering selling their livestock or land, and many species of wildlife are suffering from wildfires and lack of water. This drought could have long-term impacts on the food supply, wildlife, and livelihood of Americans in the West as these conditions persist.

The Governors of these Western states have stated that they do not have the resources necessary to face this crisis without additional investment and support from the federal government. Given the scale and scope of this problem, we request an expeditious approval of their request.

Thank you for your support and consideration, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Ken Buck  
Member of Congress

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress