

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 15, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write to respectfully urge you to approve the Secretarial disaster designations requested on November 8, 2019, by Washington Governor Jay Inslee. In October and early November 2019, twelve counties across Central and Eastern Washington experienced snowstorms and extreme cold weather events, resulting in damaged trees and vineyards and spoiled crops that cannot be harvested. These weather conditions caused severe harm to agricultural communities across the state and warrant federal disaster assistance.

Agriculture in Washington state supports 164,000 jobs and produces \$10.6 billion in annual revenue from over 39,000 farms. Twelve counties report being negatively impacted by the unseasonably cold weather—Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Walla Walla and Yakima. Specifically, initial reports in these counties indicate that up to one third of wine grape acreage, nearly 14 million bushels of apples, and over 167,000 acres of potatoes have been potentially damaged or destroyed by the late freeze.

The loss of these crops will have a significant impact on our farmers and our state's agricultural economy. On behalf of the producers in Washington state, we request an expedited review and subsequent USDA Secretarial disaster designation for the aforementioned counties harmed by recent extreme weather so that farmers can access needed federal assistance.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

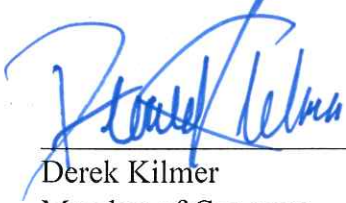
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



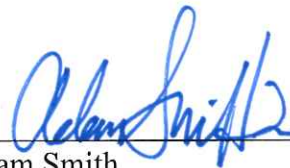
Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



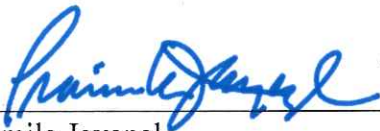
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress