

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

**DELEGATION OFFICE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 224 - 8962**

May 14, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

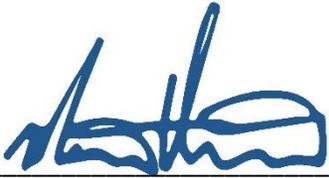
Thank you for your quick action in issuing a major disaster declaration as a result of the ongoing wildfires burning in New Mexico since April 5, 2022. While federal assistance is already reaching our communities, the State of New Mexico will need the federal government's full support to recover from the devastation of the wildfires. As such, we write in support of the State's request for the federal government to 1) waive the non-federal cost-share requirement for the entire disaster period under DR-4652-NM; and 2) authorize federal funding for debris removal (Category A) and the full range of emergency protective measures (Category B).

Since April 5, 2022, wildfires related to DR-4652-NM have burned nearly 290,000 acres, forced dozens of thousands of New Mexicans to evacuate their homes and businesses, caused two fatalities, and destroyed hundreds of homes – many in which residents and families had lived for generations. Much of the destruction has occurred in rural, high and persistent poverty rate communities that simply cannot afford to take on the economic strain imposed by the wildfires.

Given the severity and life and death nature of this crisis, we urge you to act without delay and approve the State of New Mexico's request for 100 percent coverage of federal assistance and for authorization for Category A and full range of emergency protective measures under Category B. It is imperative that the federal government provides full support to New Mexican communities to protect and recover from the ongoing wildfire devastation.

Thank you for your consideration to this important request.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator



BEN RAY LUJÁN
United States Senator



MELANIE STANSBURY
United States Representative



TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ
United States Representative



YVETTE HERRELL
United States Representative