

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2024

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20503

Director Young,

Governor Dunleavy's formal request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Juneau, Alaska, was approved on October 17, 2024, in response to the flooding in Mendenhall Valley caused by a glacial lake outburst into the Mendenhall River. The assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the community following the declaration is greatly appreciated. The declaration allows for some level of financial aid and public assistance, but the scope of the disaster necessitates a response to provide the additional resources and support needed for comprehensive recovery and rebuilding efforts.

As the administration continues to assess the full resource requirements associated with long-term rebuilding and resilience efforts for recent disasters, we would like to request funding for the Mendenhall Glacier flood recovery and mitigation be considered and included in a disaster supplemental request, including the addition of necessary expenses related to flood mitigation, disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration in areas that received a major disaster designation due to "glacial flooding." Specifically, we seek funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a general investigation under Sec. 8315 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-263 NDAA, Division H, Title LXXXI) to identify a long-term engineering solution for recurring glacial flooding. We also ask that eligibility for Juneau's glacial flooding be considered in any additional funding allocated to the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CBDG-DR) in a supplemental appropriations package.

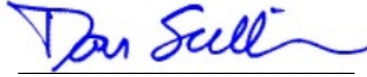
To recap the urgency, in the early morning of August 6, 2024, the Mendenhall River experienced record-breaking flooding, reaching an unprecedented level of nearly 16 feet. This catastrophic event was triggered by the sudden release of water from Suicide Basin near Mendenhall Glacier. The flooding rapidly inundated dozens of homes and other dwellings in the densely populated Mendenhall Valley, where a large portion of Juneau's population resides. The floodwaters caused significant property damage and threatened and disrupted the lives of many residents, who now face severe hardships, loss of pets, and immense property damage. Almost 300 homes and vehicles have been impacted, and more than 120 Alaska Native tribal members have been severely affected. All three members of the Alaska delegation personally visited after the flooding to see the damage. Due to the inevitable refilling of Suicide Basin, the residents of Juneau, still reeling from the devastation of the August flood, remain fearful of another potential glacier release and flood.

We appreciate the consideration for the Mendenhall Glacier Flood response and mitigation in the disaster supplemental appropriations package to ensure that the residents of Juneau's Mendenhall Valley receive the support they urgently need. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Mary Sattler Peltola
Representative for All Alaska

CC: Administrator Deanne Criswell, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Lieutenant General William Graham Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army Jaime Pinkham, Civil Works
Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman, Department of Housing and Urban Development
Chief Randy Moore, U.S. Forest Service
The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee