CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

July 27, 2009

The Honorable Barak Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Mr. Arthur Freeman, Deputy Regional Director
FEMA Region VII
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64114

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Iowa as a result damages from a severe thunderstorm that occurred in Black Hawk County on July 10th. Please note, as the scope of this incident is limited to Black Hawk County, if declared, I intend to implement a State Managed Small Disaster operation.

A cold front extended from central Minnesota southwest into northern Nebraska at 7:00 a.m. on July 10, 2009. The cold front moved across Iowa during the day and provided the focus for thunderstorm activity across the state.

The atmosphere ahead of the cold front was very moist and unstable. Several severe systems developed ahead of the front and moved southeast across Iowa during the early morning hours of July 10.

One severe storm produced serious wind damage in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area. Wind speeds were well above severe thunderstorm warning criteria and several severe thunderstorm warnings were issued. Widespread wind damage was reported.

In response to this situation, I have taken appropriate actions under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on July 17 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act.

A State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency was issued on July 17 for Black Hawk County. In conjunction with any Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, it is protocol to activate

the State Emergency Plan should the incident escalate or expand and warrant additional state resources. This Proclamation was requested by local governments as assessments indicated the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program would need to be activated to assist eligible residents recover from this storm.

On July 15 through 17, personnel from the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and local officials conducted a preliminary damage assessment for infrastructure damage.

The State of Iowa has been proactive in hazard mitigation planning activities for many years. The State's planning process is driven by Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and is synchronized through the coordination and integration of local hazard mitigation planning with
interagency planning of the State Hazard Mitigation Team. The State has an approved Enhanced State Mitigation Plan through September 18, 2010.

On July 21, I requested a joint Federal, State, and local survey in: Black Hawk County.

Listed below are the types of facilities and the adverse affects to the public and private sectors:

- To date, one injury requiring hospitalization and surgery has been reported. A contractor, working to restore cablevision service, received an electrical shock when he came into contact with an electrical pole that had broken insulators. He then fell approximately 22 feet, fracturing his back and breaking his ankle.

- Cedar Falls Utilities (CFU) was severely impacted by the combination of the strong winds and the downed trees and trees limbs. CFU had numerous broken and downed poles, downed conductor lines, and individual home services that were pulled out of the homeowners meter bases by falling trees and limbs. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, CFU had approximately 8,000 customers out of their total service area of 17,000 customers without power. CFU utilized not only their own electrical linemen but employees of the other CFU departments to assist with the restoration of temporary electrical service. CFU utilized employees of the CFU cablevision system, the CFU natural gas service, and the CFU water department to assist the electrical linemen to restore power by running chains saws and driving service vehicles to free up as many electrical linemen as possible. CFU also activated their mutual aid system and deployed a total of nine additional electrical crews from outside cities, one each from Ames, Muscatine, Maquoketa, Traer, Independence, Waverly, Grundy Center, and 2 crews from Butler County REC.

  CFU crews and the mutual aid crews worked throughout the weekend from Friday morning, July 10 to Monday, July 13 to restore electrical power to all 8,000 customers that had experienced power outages.

- This storm greatly impacted the City of Cedar Falls by producing numerous downed trees and tree limbs, electrical utility damage, and cablevision system damage. The storm created an estimated 81,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris and approximately 176 downed or damaged trees that will require removal. To remove the debris and open city streets to traffic, the City Public Works Department utilized not only their own personnel but personnel from other city departments to include Parks and Recreation and also hired three contractors to assist with the removal and hauling of debris. The City established a debris collection point for all city vehicles, all contractor vehicles all private citizen vehicles that were attempting to dispose of the vegetative debris. The City has a contractor to grind vegetative debris at various times during a normal year and this contractor was on site late on the afternoon of July 16 to start reducing the vegetative debris.

- The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) experienced similar damages with downed trees, downed and broken limbs, and the loss of electrical services but also experienced multiple instances of building and facilities damage. The buildings on the UNI campus had numerous broken windows, roof damages, and some interior water damage as a result of the rain associated with this storm entered the various buildings after the initial damage occurred.

- The City of Waterloo was also similarly impacted by the storm. The City experienced numerous downed trees on the City's golf course. City crews accumulated several overtime hours clearing the debris from the golf course in order to allow the previously scheduled golf tournament, the Waterloo Open, to take place the following weekend, July 17 through July 19. The Waterloo Open Professional Golf Tournament is Iowa's largest professional golf tournament and the state's largest Jaycee event.

- The Waterloo Regional Airport also experienced significant structural damage to five building and hangars with a damage repair estimate of $378,000.00. However, the airport manager also indicated all the resulting storm damages at the airport would be covered by the City's insurance except the $50,000.00 deductible.

Currently, Iowa is administering seven open Presidential disasters; a flood incident from 2004 and most recently, last summer's disasters, the tornado that devastated Parkersburg and the historic flooding.

Black Hawk County was declared in last year's disaster that resulted in 26 eligible Public Assistance Program applicants. To date, these applicants have 421 project worksheets totaling $50,838,929 in approved projects.

Since January of 2007, when I was sworn into office, seven Presidential disasters have been declared for Iowa for the Public Assistance Program. This represents 13,025 project worksheets, totaling $856,201,952.

As previously mentioned, the 2008 disaster was historic and it devastated portions of the State. At present, the total disaster dollar damage has exceeded $1 billion dollars and Iowa's financial obligation is expected to exceed $763,000,000.

The 2008 disasters were so burdensome to the citizens of Iowa, in addition to the State cost share commitment it was necessary to implement initiatives and programs to assist in the recovery of Iowa. Programs included are I-Jobs which is a three-year program that will help our state recover from the natural disasters of 2008 and preserve or create thousands of jobs. State grants in the amount of $165 million are now available for mitigation projects and reconstruction/rebuilding projects. Some projects include flood control measures and reconstruction of public buildings or fire stations.

The Federal Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program was also implemented as a result of the 2008 disasters. This program is being administered through the Iowa Department of Economic Development and is designed to assist homeowners make a down payment on a new house, repair their current home, or maintain their mortgages while waiting for a potential buyout from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The State of Iowa allocated $58 million to the Jumpstart Program.

Additionally, the 2009 Iowa Legislature passed House File 64 that included an additional $56 million that went towards providing housing and/or disaster recovery assistance to the citizens and jurisdictions who sustained damage during the 2008 disasters or who had unmet needs or damages that were not otherwise eligible under a federal program.

This is at a time when we, as a Nation, are all suffering from a downturn in the economy.

I have determined this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. Therefore, I am requesting Public Assistance for all categories in Black Hawk County. I am also requesting Hazard Mitigation "Statewide" and anticipate the need for Direct Federal Assistance in the form of debris removal.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosure B. The Governor's Certification is included in Enclosure D.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal Share of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed $1,357,337, in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

I request Direct Federal Assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Iowa agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work;

2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;

3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and

4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety.

> Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Pat Hall as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

Chester J. Culver
Governor

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
Under the Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Black Hawk	$1,135,807	$403,500	$0	$0	$910,000	$2,832,900	$146,200	$5,429,307
TOTALS	**$1,135,807**	**$403,500**	**$0**	**$0**	**$910,000**	**$2,832,000**	**$146,200**	**$5,429,307**

Note: Estimates are to reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.

ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share and costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT	
Individual Assistance:	STATE	LOCAL
"Other Assistance" under the Individual and Households Program	$ 0	$ 0
Other (specify)		
Total:	**$ 0**	**$ 0**
Public Assistance:		
Category A – Debris Removal	$113,581	$170,371
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	$ 40,350	$60,525
Category C – Roads and Bridges	$0	$0
Category D – Water Control Facilities	$0	$0
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	$91,090	$136,635
Category F – Utilities	$283,290	$424,935
Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	$14,620	$21,930
Total:	**$542,931**	**$814,396**
Grand Total:	**$542,931**	**$814,396**