

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 19, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Biden,

Governor Dunleavy has formally requested a Major Disaster Declaration for Juneau, Alaska, in response to the flooding in Mendenhall Valley caused by a glacial lake outburst into the Mendenhall River.

On August 6, 2024 around 2:30am, the Mendenhall River experienced record-breaking flooding, reaching an unprecedented level of 15.99 feet. This catastrophic event was triggered by the sudden release of water from Suicide Basin, located off the side of the Mendenhall Glacier. The flooding rapidly inundated dozens of homes and other dwellings in the densely populated Mendenhall Valley. The floodwaters not only caused significant property damage but also threatened and disrupted the lives of many residents now facing severe hardships, loss of pets, and immense property damage. Over 100 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.

The local response has been commendable, with emergency shelters, debris collection efforts, and support from community groups. However, the scale of the destruction is overwhelming, and the resources required to fully address the needs of the affected Alaskans far exceed what local and state efforts alone can provide.

Governor Dunleavy's state disaster declaration is a crucial first step, allowing for some level of financial assistance through October 9, 2024, but the scope of the disaster necessitates a federal response to provide the additional resources and support needed for comprehensive recovery and rebuilding efforts.

We urge you to approve Governor Dunleavy's request for a federal disaster declaration to ensure that the residents of Juneau's Mendenhall Valley receive the support they urgently need. Your prompt action would greatly assist in alleviating the severe impact of this disaster and help restore stability to a community in distress.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



Mary Sattler Peltola  
Representative for All Alaska