STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

June 9, 2008

The Honorable Edward T. Schafer
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Schafer:

As Governor of the State of Indiana, I hereby request that you declare the following 44 counties major disaster counties because of damage to one or more crops and loss or significant harm to livestock, resulting from severe storms, tornados, torrential rainfall, and flash flooding that began on May 30, 2008 and is continuing.

As you are probably aware, Indiana has experienced severe flooding with much more rain forecasted today. President Bush has responded to my request to declare the following 29 counties Federal Disaster Areas for emergency protective measures (FEMA Category B), limited to direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program.:

> Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Greene, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Morgan, Monroe, Ohio, Owen, Ripley, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Union, Vermillion, Vigo, and Wayne.

While we are still awaiting detailed assessments from county Farm Service Agency offices, we strongly believe that all of these counties will have damage to crops and livestock which will constitute a disaster under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's criteria and qualify farmers for emergency loans. Therefore, we ask for your help in expediting the review and declaration process for the 29 counties above, as well the 15 additional counties below.

> Adams, Benton, Carroll, Elkhart, Fulton, Hancock, Huntington, Lagrange, Marion, Miami, Newton, Tippecanoe, Wabash, Warrick, and White.

Indiana is forecasted to receive significant rainfall in the coming days. Because of this, I may be sending you additional requests for other Indiana counties to consider for disaster designation; however, I ask your favorable consideration for the above listed 44 Indiana

counties and contiguous counties so that they may apply for emergency assistance through the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Finally, if possible, it would help if you could seek to have the President amend his recent declaration to include agriculture. This could expand the assistance to farmers and help Hoosier producers begin the rebuilding process.

I appreciate any assistance your office can provide to the affected Indiana farmers and request your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

M E Daniels, Jr.

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