

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Zach Ducheneaux
Administrator, Farm Service Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

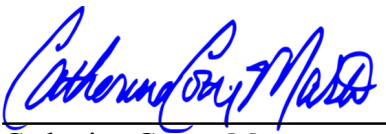
Dear Administrator Ducheneaux:

We write to you today regarding ongoing winter weather conditions in the Mountain West region, as well as the severe impact that it is having on farmers and ranchers in Nevada. As you are aware, Departments of Agriculture from four Western states, including Nevada, recently sent you a letter to request assistance with supplemental feed or water, snow removal, and the consideration of expanded eligibility for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. In particular, this letter called on you and your agency to utilize all tools and powers at its disposal to assist impacted farmers and ranchers with various needs resulting from extreme weather. Accordingly, we echo this call and respectfully request that you provide a prompt response to these Departments, and consider providing immediate assistance to Nevada producers.

This winter season has been particularly difficult for ranchers and farmers in the Western United States. In fact, the USDA issued a weather bulletin at the end of February to report on the hardships posed to the agricultural industry due to these sprawling and complex storm systems. The bulletin noted that: “multi-day snow accumulations have contributed to major travel disruptions and severe livestock stress...”¹ Moreover, USDA Snow Courses and Automated Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) data displays that the Eastern Nevada Basin has received over 210 percent of its average snowfall to date.² As referenced in the letter from these Western Departments of Agriculture, this winter barrage has resulted in higher livestock mortality, limited access to food resources, and restricted transportation opportunities or alternatives.

It is imperative that USDA disaster programs continue to respond to the challenges that Nevada farmers and ranchers face. Thank you for your efforts and leadership on behalf of U.S. agriculture, and we look forward to your prompt consideration and response to this request.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator




Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

¹ "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin." U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Last modified February 28, 2023. <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/wwcb.pdf>.

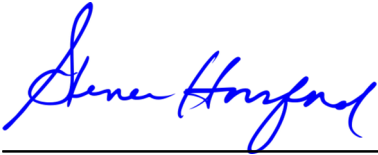
² "Nevada SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report." USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - National Water and Climate Center. Accessed March 5, 2023. <https://wcc.sc.egov.usda.gov/reports/UpdateReport.html>



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress