

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 11, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue Southwest
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I respectfully request that you declare an agricultural disaster for Roseau, Beltrami, Pennington, Clearwater, Wilkin, Mahnomen, Becker, Pope, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and Carlton Counties in Minnesota.

Farmers in these counties have experienced significant crop losses in 2009 due to difficult growing conditions. While northeastern Minnesota counties experienced severely dry weather, several north central counties experienced cold, wet growing conditions coupled with an early frost that prematurely ended the growing season.

The Loss Assessment Reports (LAR) reflect that farmers in the identified counties experienced crop losses of 30 percent or more to corn, soybeans, canola, sunflowers, flax, barley, oats, blueberries, honey, dry edible beans, rye, and sugar beet crops. A declaration would allow affected farmers to receive the assistance of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's low-interest Emergency Loan program administered by the Farm Service Agency.

Each of the counties' Emergency Boards have met and assessed the damages. The Minnesota Farm Service Agency office convened the State Emergency Board (SEB) on December 15, 2009, and is in agreement with the LARs submitted. I am attaching the LARs, the County Emergency Board meeting minutes, and other supporting documents.

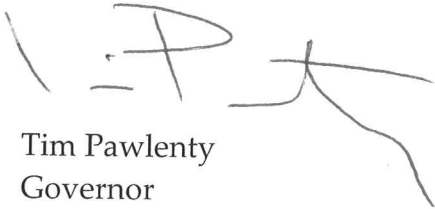
Secretary Vilsack

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Thank you for your review and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Pawlenty', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Enclosures: LAR-SEB Recommendation Letter
SEB Meeting Minutes
LARs and County Emergency Board Meeting Minutes for Roseau,
Beltrami, Pennington, Clearwater, Wilkin, Mahnomen,
Becker, Pope, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin,
Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and Carlton Counties
PowerPoint Presentation