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United States Senate

August 21, 2015

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I am writing to express my strong support for the joint request from Indiana's Governor, Lt. Governor, and Executive Director of Indiana's Farm Service Agency for a disaster declaration for Clark, Fulton, Morgan, Owen, Rush, Shelby, White, and Whitley counties in Indiana. As you know, much of Indiana has experienced excessive and prolonged rainfall, beginning in May and falling at record-breaking rates for multiple months.

The extreme levels of rain have caused irreparable damage to planted fields and rendered others unplantable throughout the state. Tens of thousands of acres still have living plants, but will only produce a portion of the typical yield due to poor root development and interruptions to fertilizer and herbicide application patterns.

Thousands of farmers in Indiana are going to experience significant financial losses this year and this will be a particularly difficult time for young and limited resource farmers. We have appreciated your disaster declaration for the initial 53 of Indiana's counties and I would appreciate your immediate and favorable consideration of a disaster declaration for these additional counties so that resources can be made available to help deal with crops losses.

Sincerely,

Joe Donnelly

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator