

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2011

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Gov. Branstad Requests President Obama Declare Major Disaster for Public Assistance

Request made in the wake of major windstorm that affected Benton, Marshall, Story and Tama Counties

DES MOINES – Governor Terry E. Branstad has asked President Obama to declare a Major Disaster for Public Assistance for four Iowa counties. The four counties in the request are Benton, Marshall, Story and Tama.

The Governor is making the request in response to the severe weather and windstorms that began on July 9. The windstorms caused widespread damage and resulted in large amounts of debris in the four counties.

“The damage caused by this windstorm has been extensive in the four impacted counties,” said Governor Branstad. “While Iowans in these areas have been working hard to recover, the damage incurred to public infrastructure has been overwhelming. We need the assistance of the federal government to aid in the recovery. This is why I have requested that the President sign a Major Disaster Declaration for Iowa.”

A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are matched by state programs, and designed to help public entities and select non-profits. Public Assistance funds may be used for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential government functions and grants for public schools.

The State may ask for additional counties to be added if the damage warrants such a request. For more information, please visit www.governor.iowa.gov.

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