

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310

June 23, 1980

President Jimmy Carter
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through:
Mr. Neale V. Chaney
Regional Director, Region X
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Regional Center
Bothell, Washington 98011

Dear Mr. President:

Following up my letter of June 17, 1980, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster to exist in the following counties in the State of Oregon:

Multnomah County
Tillamook County
Washington County

Ash and mudflows from the eruption of Mt. St. Helens on May 18 and subsequent eruptions have resulted in danger to health, safety and economic losses in the aforementioned counties. The tourist industry and other businesses have suffered economic losses as a result of reduced airline traffic for 3-4 days at Portland International Airport, and the reluctance of tourists and others to enter areas where ash has fallen. Air quality warnings for 7 days have exacerbated the situation. Industries which depend on import and export have suffered economic losses because of the inability of ships to move freely up and down the Columbia River from June 18 to the present time.

In two counties there has been agricultural damage, Tillamook and Washington. Tillamook is exclusively dairy country. Farmers have not allowed their cows out to pasture because of the ash cover, and have had to rely on stored or purchased feed. This

increases the cost of feed, while the disruption in the cows' normal diet has reduced milk production. The economic loss can not be estimated at this time. In Washington County, there are several crops that have been affected. Raspberries may be a total loss. Strawberries are being harvested, but the ash causes a higher rejection rate and the need for increased washings raises costs. There will be damage to seed crops, but actual losses are unknown. Washington County produces a majority of the nations filbert crop. The potential damage to the filberts is not known. There is possible damage to the peach crop, but it is inassessible at this time.

The State and local governments have expended more than one million, as shown in Attachment 1, cleaning up ash and in extraordinary operating expenditures. Business losses are summarized in Attachment 2.

On June 12, I implemented the State Emergency Operations Plan, and activated the State Emergency Operating Center.

The State and local governments will commit to this disaster a portion of the total public assistance costs.

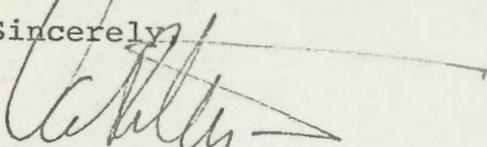
Reimbursement for these costs (even if eligible under a Federal program) will not be requested from the Federal Government for this disaster. I certify that the aforementioned committment will be a reasonable amount of State and local resources available for combating against disaster.

I hereby request that the following types of assistance be provided within the designated counties. (See Attachment 3)

1. Public Assistance: Reimbursement of costs of State agencies and local governments for ash cleaning and emergency operations.
2. SBA Economic Injury Loans for businesses who suffered reduced patronage because of closure of the Columbia River and ashfall.
3. Farmers Home Administration Emergency Loans for farmers who have suffered reduced production.
4. Emergency Conservation Measures for restoration of land where crops have been destroyed.
5. Disaster Unemployment Assistance for those placed out of work because of ashfall or closure of the Columbia River and who are not covered by State Unemployment Insurance.
6. Community Disaster Loans to public entities who suffered reserve losses because of the ash or mudflows.

Because of the press of time, your prompt attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Victor Atiyeh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Victor Atiyeh
Governor