



STATE OF UTAH

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
GOVERNOR

GARY R. HERBERT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 27, 2007

The Honorable Mike Johanns
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
200 - A Whitten Bldg.
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns,

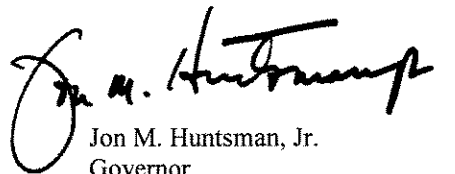
Enclosed you will find a "Declaration of Agricultural Disaster" that I signed regarding the severe drought conditions in the State of Utah. Our farmers and ranchers have faced severe drought conditions for several years during the past decade and I am once again requesting a federal declaration of "Agricultural Disaster" for the qualifying counties in our state.

Utah is among several states that have repeatedly suffered under the "Extreme or Exceptional" drought conditions as reported by the USDA Drought Monitor. In addition to this, many counties have suffered from insect infestations, killing frosts, hot dry winds, low runoff and drought conditions and fires. Utah recently experienced the largest wildfire in its history. At the same time, some areas have also experienced flash floods.

The very low snow pack in our mountains, coupled with extremely low soil moisture, has resulted in below normal runoff and has contributed significantly to the current drought conditions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's State Emergency Board estimates the financial loss to Utah agriculture to be nearly \$141million due to these conditions.

I respectfully request that you declare an "Agricultural Disaster" for the 25 qualifying counties in the State of Utah and order immediate action to be taken to assist in providing relief for the losses. Thank you for your timely response to this request.

Sincerely,



Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor

cc: Utah Congressional Delegation
Bruce Richeson, State Director, USDA-FSA
Leonard M. Blackham, Commissioner