

## Johnson, Bonnie

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**From:** Carlson, Joan [Joan.Carlson@mail.house.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2010 5:16 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Bonnie; Berndt, Keith  
**Subject:** FW: Congress Clears Bill To Address FEMA Shortfall  
**Attachments:** FEMA Process for Funding Deferred DFR Projects.pdf

FYI

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**From:** Rhinehart Van Tassell, Melanie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2010 5:09 PM  
**To:** Rhinehart Van Tassell, Melanie  
**Subject:** Congress Clears Bill To Address FEMA Shortfall

### ***NEWS FROM NORTH DAKOTA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION***

**Congressman Earl**  
**POMEROY**

**Senator Byron**  
**DORGAN**

**Senator Kent**  
**CONRAD**

July 27, 2010

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### **Congress Clears Bill To Address FEMA Shortfall**

*Legislation will allow FEMA to resume delayed payments for road repair, other needed measures in North Dakota*

**Washington, D.C.** – Representative Earl Pomeroy and Senators Kent Conrad and Byron Dorgan announced Tuesday that Congress has cleared legislation that will provide the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with \$5.1 billion in funding to address a shortfall in the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). The funding was included in the Supplemental Appropriations bill passed by the House Tuesday. The Senate approved the measure earlier this year. It now goes to the White House where President Obama is expected to sign it into law.

“In North Dakota, when someone makes a commitment to pay what they owe, they meet that commitment,” the delegation said in a joint statement. “North Dakota communities and utilities have been left holding the bag waiting for this much-needed disaster relief. But with passage of this legislation, FEMA and the states can begin the process of reimbursing local governments so they can move forward. We will be working closely with FEMA to ensure that North Dakota does not experience further unnecessary delays due to administrative red tape.”

The DRF pays to reimburse local and state governments for damages suffered during a disaster, emergency

protective measures, and hazard mitigation projects like home buyouts. Without these supplemental funds, the DRF was almost out of money and had already restricted payments to emergency service and debris removal measures only.

In North Dakota, state officials estimated that without the additional DRF funding, an estimated \$75-80 million in damages and mitigation projects, including buyouts, resulting from the state's four active disaster declarations would potentially be on hold. Upon enactment of this legislation, FEMA can begin allocating approved funding for deferred projects to the states that will then be responsible for reimbursing local entities.

Since FEMA's announcement that the DRF was running out of money, the Delegation has worked hard to appropriate supplemental funds for the vital relief program, pushing the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to fully fund President Obama's supplemental request of \$5.1 billion.

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**FEMA**

**PROCESS FOR REPLENISHING THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND OBLIGATING FUNDING FOR DEFERRED PROJECTS**

- Step 1:** **Bill Signing.** The President signs H.R. 4899, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010, into law.
- Step 2:** **Request for “Apportionment” of Funding.** FEMA works with the Department of Homeland Security and OMB to formally request that the supplemental funds be “apportioned” to the Agency. This process takes approximately two weeks.
- Step 3:** **Preparation for Final Allocation of Funds.** FEMA’s Office of the Chief Financial Officer works with the Agency’s regional and field comptrollers and Program staff to allocate funding. This process will take approximately two days.
- Step 4:** **“Obligation” of Funds to the States.** FEMA’s Regional Offices, Joint Field Offices, and Transitional Recovery Offices officially transfer, or “obligate,” the funds for projects that have completed a final review.