



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

August 28, 2012

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
458 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S.2283 to Amend the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for Comprehensive and Consistent National Disaster Emergency Management including Tribal Governments

Dear Senator Bennet:

I write on behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to ask that you support Senate Bill S.2283 which would amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide a federally-recognized Indian tribe authority to submit direct requests to the President of the United States for a federal disaster declaration. As currently structured, the Stafford Act requires that Tribe's route requests for assistance through the governor of their respective states. This is not consistent with the government-to-government trust relationship between the United States and Indian Country.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe supports FEMA and the National Congress of American Indians work to develop this bill which will provide tribal government's equal access to public safety decision making power when catastrophic disasters or emergencies impact tribal communities. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe formally requests that the 112th Congress approve S.2283 to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as presented.

Thank you for your time and consideration in strengthening tribal self-governance and protecting all citizens of this country, and for support for passage of S.2283.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Newton", written over a white background.

Jimmy R. Newton, Jr.
Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

August 28, 2012

The Honorable Mark Udall
Hart Office Building Suite SH-328
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for S.2283 to Amend the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for Comprehensive and Consistent National Disaster Emergency Management including Tribal Governments

Dear Senator Udall:

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Jimmy R. Newton, Jr.
Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe