



Jim Pillen
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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April 17, 2026

Gregg Phillips
Associate Administrator
Office of Response and Recovery
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Through: Catherine Sanders – Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region VII
Kansas City, Missouri, 64114

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Under the provisions of 44 C.F.R. §206.36(a), I hereby request an extension until May 27, 2026, to submit a request for a major disaster for the State of Nebraska as a result of the Morrill-Cottonwood Fire Complex that occurred on March 12-27, 2026.

Pursuant to 44 C.F.R. §206.36(a), I am submitting this written request for an extension within 30 days of the occurrence of the incident. In the wake of these fires, additional fires were reported and impacted entities were unable to get into the footprint of the fire to assess damage due to unsafe conditions and an unsecure parameter. The state threshold for requesting a federal disaster has been exceeded, however due to the severity of these fires and additional fires that occurred during the same timeframe fires suppression activities have taken priority and the State is requesting additional time to finalize the March 12-27, 2026, Preliminary Damage Assessments.

As a result, the State of Nebraska is requesting a thirty-day extension through May 27, 2026, to submit the request for a federal disaster declaration. An additional thirty days would allow FEMA Region VII and the State of NE adequate time to complete the verification and analysis of the PDA information and estimates. PDAs are expected to begin the week of April 27, 2026, and FEMA should expect to receive the request no later than May 26, 2026.

I have designated Lexy Hindt as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. She will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on completing damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Pillen".

Jim Pillen
Governor