

August 18, 2020

Administrator Martin Barbre
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Administrator Barbre:

The derecho storm that rolled through Iowa on Aug. 10, 2020 has had a devastating impact on Iowa agriculture. As USDA RMA data would indicate, there are approximately 8.2 million acres of corn and 5.6 million acres of soybeans across 57 Iowa counties that may have been impacted by the storm.

I have been touring the hardest hit parts of the state to speak with farmers and businesses that were impacted by the derecho. These farmers put significant resources into this crop and were planning for strong yields. Now their crops have been damaged and, in some cases, destroyed. This is a devastating blow to the agriculture community that continues to face challenges related to the pandemic.

Crop insurance is a critical resource to help Iowa farmers recover some of the damages and financial impact of the storm. As I meet with farmers, they emphasize the need for a no harvest option in areas with the greatest damage. I have appreciated your attention to this challenge since our first conversation about it the morning after the storm, and look forward to continuing to work with you and the Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) to find a workable solution for all involved.

We believe grain quality must also be taken into consideration as we face on-farm and commercial storage limitations. Current estimates indicate more than 57 million bushels of commercial grain storage capacity in Iowa was destroyed or seriously damaged. We estimate similar damage to on-farm grain storage capacity.

Thank you for your leadership of RMA and your support of Iowa farmers during this very challenging time. I look forward to continuing to work with you on their behalf.

Sincerely,



Mike Naig
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture