

**CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE**  
Governor



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

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November 6, 2009

The Honorable J. Rand Elliott, Chairman  
Board of Yakima County Commissioners  
128 North Second Street  
Yakima, WA 98901

Dear Chairman Elliott:

Thank you for your letter concerning the negative impact of the Nile Valley landslide on small business owners in the area. I share your concerns and am requesting the Small Business Administration (SBA) to declare an economic injury disaster for Nile Valley small businesses. This should result in SBA providing low interest loans to businesses affected by the landslide.

With regard to your request that I request a presidential disaster declaration, It is necessary that we first assess the damage to individuals, businesses, and public infrastructure in the area. I have asked my Emergency Management Division (EMD) to work with the Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management to collect this information. If the reported damage meets basic thresholds, a joint federal and state team will travel to the impacted area to determine whether a presidential disaster declaration is possible.

I am also aware that the U.S. Department of Transportation has approved the Nile Valley landslide area for Federal Highways Emergency Relief Program funding. This action should provide needed federal funding for SR 410 repairs.

I will continue to update you through EMD as we receive more information on the damage assessment in the area. I commend and appreciate the hard work you and your fellow commissioners accomplished on behalf of the Nile Valley residents.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor

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cc: Senator Janéa Holmquist  
Senator Jim Honeyford  
Senator Curtis King  
Representative Bruce Chandler  
Representative Bill Hinkle  
Representative Norm Johnson  
Representative Charles Ross  
Representative David Taylor  
Representative Judy Warnick