

Senators Casperson, Walker and Green offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 158.

A resolution to urge the President of the United States to declare a major disaster or emergency for areas in Michigan's Upper Peninsula impacted by the Duck Lake wildfire.

Whereas, The Duck Lake fire in Luce County, Michigan, began May 24, 2012, following a lightning strike. As of June 6, the wildfire has covered 21,112 acres and destroyed 49 cabins and homes, including a motel and store, 23 garages, 38 sheds, and 26 campers; and

Whereas, The Duck Lake fire is now the third-largest forest fire to ever burn in the history of the great state of Michigan; and

Whereas, Governor Snyder declared a state of disaster in Luce and Schoolcraft Counties on May 25, 2012, to make all state resources available to fight the fire. In addition, Governor Snyder activated the National Guard to provide assistance; and

Whereas, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with state and local partners, has fought in dangerous conditions against the wildfire to protect people, property, and Michigan's natural resources. One hundred fifty-six people, 16 engines, 5 bulldozers, 4 hand crews, and 1 fixed-wing aircraft have been employed to stop the fire. The tireless and selfless efforts of the professional personnel, countless volunteers, and laypersons helped avert even further property damage and prevented the loss of life; and

Whereas, Federal assistance is necessary to supplement state efforts and resources. Michigan's third-largest wildfire has caused extensive damage and irreparably changed people's lives. Every means available will be needed to help residents rebuild their communities, homes, and businesses; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the President of the United States to declare a major disaster or emergency for areas in Michigan's Upper Peninsula impacted by the Duck Lake wildfire; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the regional administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Office of the Governor.