

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM 97310

June 17, 1980

President Jimmy Carter
White House
Washington, D. C.

F.Y.I.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION
17 JUNE 1980
from
Oregon Governor's office
Communications

Dear Mr. President:

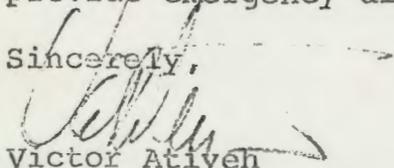
You are aware of the immense havoc created by the May 18 eruption of Mount St. Helens. Enormous quantities of silt and debris were carried down the Toutle and Cowlitz rivers on that and succeeding days, causing a substantial blockage of the Columbia River near Longview, Washington. The Port of Portland, Oregon, is suffering serious economic distress by reason of this blockage and consequent reduction of shipping.

Two subsequent eruptions of the mountain have discharged great quantities of volcanic ash, much of which has drifted into northwestern Oregon. Presence of this dust in the atmosphere when falling, and when stirred by motor vehicles and ordinary wind, reduces visibility and impedes the flow of traffic for commercial, as well as private, purposes. Damage to motor vehicle engines and other systems has been noted, resulting from this abrasive substance.

A distinct possibility exists that reservoirs of community water systems may be affected adversely by continued ash falls. Ash in streets, washed into storm drains, adversely affects sewage treatment facilities. Some manufacturing concerns requiring a dust-free environment have found it necessary to suspend operations pending installation of more effective air filters.

Taking these events into consideration, as Governor of Oregon I request that you declare the state of Oregon to be a federal disaster area within the meaning of various federal laws which provide emergency disaster and recovery assistance.

Sincerely,


Victor Atiyeh
Governor