

**LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION  
FOR WILLIAMS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA  
WILDFIRES AND EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH WINDS  
October 8, 2024**



**WHEREAS**, Williams County, North Dakota has experienced record wildfires and prolonged sustained extraordinarily high winds with gusts exceeding 70 m.p.h.;

**WHEREAS**, these wildfires and prolonged sustained extraordinarily high winds have caused personal injury and death, loss of property, power outages, damage to electric infrastructure, road closures, blockage on rural roads, and travel hazards, and have brought travel to a standstill, in certain parts of Williams County;

**WHEREAS**, the Williams County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, along with other County departments and public entities within Williams County, have expended inordinate efforts in responding to these wildfires and prolonged sustained extraordinarily high winds;

**WHEREAS**, these wildfires and prolonged sustained extraordinarily high winds has caused significant consequences to those engaged in agriculture, including stressed livestock and damage to, or the destruction of, equipment, homes, and crops;

**WHEREAS**, the impact and continued conditions related to these wildfires and prolonged sustained extraordinarily high winds, along with the prolonged clean-up and recovery, has threatened and may continue to threaten the health, well-being, safety, and welfare of citizens of Williams County;

**WHEREAS**, all available resources of Williams County remain committed to protecting the lives, health, well-being safety, and welfare of the citizens of Williams County;

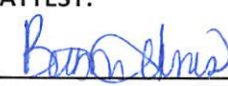
**WHEREAS**, N.D.C.C. Chapter 37-17.1 authorizes counties to declare a local state of emergency and for state and local jurisdictions to work cooperatively to address emergency situations; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 5, 2024, Chairman Steve Kemp of the Williams County Board of County Commissioners, under the authority of N.D.C.C. § 37-17.1-10(a), declared a local state of emergency within Williams County due to wildfires and prolonged sustained extraordinarily high winds to be effective for no more than a period of seven days, and the Williams County Board of County Commissioners intend to continue that declaration.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Williams County Board of County Commissioners, by a majority roll call vote and pursuant to its authority under N.D.C.C. Chapter 37-17.1, hereby continues the declaration of a local state of emergency due to wildfires and prolonged sustained extraordinarily high winds to be effective in and throughout Williams County, including, to the extent permitted by law, all incorporated cities and other political subdivisions within Williams County, until further notice; and hereby further authorizes expenditures out of the Williams County emergency fund pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 57-15-28 or any other available source for, or in response to, the emergency resulting from the severe wildfires and prolonged sustained extraordinarily high winds.

DATED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

  
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Steve Kemp, Chairman  
Williams County Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:  
  
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Beth M. Innis, Williams County Auditor