

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
12-01

WHEREAS, a severe winter storm began on January 17, 2012, and is forecast to continue for several days producing extensive snowfall throughout the Washington lowlands and in mountain elevations, affecting roadways and causing temporary closures of key transportation routes due to hazardous conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the impact of this incident on transportation of perishable milk products from farms is a public disaster that affects life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department activated the state Emergency Operations Center to implement response procedures and coordinate resources to support local jurisdictions in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure as a result of this disaster, and is continuing to assess the magnitude of the event; and,

WHEREAS, the extreme weather conditions affecting the state have created an emergency situation slowing the delivery of milk due to road closures and weather delays which frequently prevent drivers from completing their routes within the time limits prescribed by driver hours of service rules. Action is needed to ensure the delivery of this necessary commodity to the citizens of this state during the continuing storm, and to avoid predicted industry losses of nearly \$1 million per day if their product is lost or wasted.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the aforementioned situation and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Washington, and direct the plans and procedures to the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the event.

I also hereby waive the driver hours of service rules, as they apply to drivers operating trucks hauling bulk milk intrastate from farms to dairy processing facilities, and interplant between dairies and between processing facilities, until January 22, 2012, at 11:59 p.m. PST. I ask the milk bulk carrier industry to use their best judgment in delivering their products in a manner that ensures public safety during this period.

I also hereby order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of the Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington Military Department. Additionally, the Washington State Emergency Operations Center is instructed to coordinate all incident-related assistance to the affected areas.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 18th day of January, A.D, Two Thousand and Twelve at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State