



September 11, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson and
Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the memberships of our associations, we ask Congress to address the
current shortfalls to the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) through swift passage of a Continuing
Resolution (CR) for FY25.

For the second time in two years now, state and local governments and emergency managers have
been forced to manage a unique and wholly avoidable disaster. When the DRF runs short of
funding, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) implements Immediate Needs
Funding (INF). This limits all current disaster recovery efforts across the country. Since FEMA went
to INF this year in August, more than \$6.1 billion in recovery activities ground to a halt.

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This unpredictability places an undue burden on disaster survivors and complicates already onerous programs. Congress currently has the opportunity to not only replenish the DRF through the CR currently under negotiation but provide enough funding to prevent the current situation from arising again next summer. This can be accomplished by passing the CR which funds the DRF, provides an additional \$10 billion in disaster relief, and allows the Office of Management and Budget to do a full-year apportionment of funds. Additionally, Congress should backfill the \$6.1 billion in INF projects and include such funds as appropriate to avoid INF again next year.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the DRF is adequately funded in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to ensuring state and local governments have the resources necessary to keep our local communities safe and secure.

Sincerely,

Association of State Floodplain Managers
Big City Emergency Managers
BuildStrong America
Council of State Governments
International Association of Emergency Managers
International City/County Management Association
National Association of Counties
National Association of County Engineers
National Emergency Management Association
National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters