



June 5, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves, Chairman
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Scott Perry, Chairman
The Honorable Dina Titus, Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development,
Public Buildings, and Emergency Management
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Graves and Perry and Ranking Members Larsen and Titus:

On behalf of our collective associations, representing a broad spectrum of the emergency management community, we ask you to add the bipartisan H.R. 7671, the *Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act*, to your upcoming June or July mark-up.

When managing disaster declarations, state and local governments coordinate billions of dollars in federal grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). To help offset the administrative burden of these grants, FEMA regulations allow recipients to utilize a small percentage of the funding for management costs. Current law limits these management costs to each specific disaster declaration, and regulations do not allow grantees to economize by managing workloads across all open disasters. This bill does not provide new funding or establish a new program but will allow state and local emergency managers to utilize management costs across all open disasters, incentivize faster disaster close-out, which will support longer-term recovery and mitigation efforts and drive down the costs of disasters nationwide.

The legislation will also allow states with more robust recovery and mitigation capacity to assist states with infrequent declarations and, therefore, less capacity, through programs such as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Emergency managers will also be able to

manage smaller disasters and declarations without a large FEMA footprint, thereby allowing FEMA to focus their resources on catastrophic events.

We look forward to working with you on this bill through the committee process and request you add it to the upcoming June or July mark-up.

Sincerely,

Big City Emergency Managers
BuildStrong America
International Association of Emergency Managers
National Emergency Management Association
National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster

cc: The Honorable Joe Neguse
The Honorable Anthony D’Esposito
The Honorable Mike Exell
The Honorable Greg Stanton
The Honorable Josh Harder
The Honorable Jamie Raskin