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September 5, 2017

Hon. Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) represents the emergency management directors in the 50 states, U.S. territories and District of Columbia who are responsible to their governors for all hazards disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery.

NEMA urges Congress to provide sufficient funding through the disaster supplemental to not only support the critical response and recovery efforts in Texas and Louisiana, as well as anticipate and prepare for the impacts of Hurricanes on the immediate horizon, but to allow FEMA to continue to support ongoing recovery efforts across the country for disasters from recent years. We encourage Congress to review FEMA's request and current needs to better understand why the \$7.85 billion request from the Office of Management and Budget fails to adequately fund FEMA's commitments and bifurcates recovery for the foreseeable future.

Not long after Harvey made landfall on August 26, and the immense impact became evident, FEMA recognized the limited funding available in the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) and instituted "Immediate Needs Funding" (INF) restrictions. These funding restrictions allow the agency to focus on immediate response and life saving measures while limiting recovery funding to any open disasters across the country.

Disaster recovery is a tenuous process and delays in funding can have a domino effect on communities attempting to rebuild smarter and safer. Contracts can be slow to bid and projects then experience delays that only grow exponentially. As long as FEMA is instituting INF, long-term recovery will be disrupted for communities and disaster survivors across the country.



NEMA and its members understand and appreciate the difficult position Congress is in with many competing priorities and financial challenges as the end of the fiscal year approaches. We encourage Congress to adequately fund the DRF so FEMA can fulfill its commitments to survivors impacted by all federally declared disasters. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Alexa Noruk, NEMA's Director of Government Relations at anoruk@csg.org or (202) 624-5459.

Sincerely,



Wendy Smith-Reeve
NEMA President

CC: Senate Appropriations Committee; Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

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