



April 20, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy:

On behalf of the state and local emergency managers across the country, we ask you to consider the following programs and priorities within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at the Department of Homeland Security as you develop the 302(b) allocations for FY19.

The intense disaster season of 2017 required emergency managers to deal with 59 major disaster declarations, 15 emergency declarations, and 63 fire management assistance declarations throughout the year. These disasters impacted 33 states and two territories, bringing the overall total to 137 declarations – the most since 2011. Beyond these events requiring federal assistance, thousands of additional events occurred without assistance including 22,552 events requiring state assets, and 12,577 local and tribal events. FEMA is not a first responder during disasters, so without a thriving state and local emergency management system, many of these 35,109 events would likely have required costly federal support. Programs such as these allow for building strong capacity at the state and local levels; helps us achieve FEMA’s stated goal ensuring disasters are “locally executed, state managed, and federally supported;” and help drive-down the costs of disasters nationwide.

1. **Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG).** EMPG is integral to building state and local capacity thereby lessening the burden on FEMA. With a dollar-for-dollar matching requirement at the local and state levels, this program represents one of the best values in federal spending. EMPG continues as a critical driver of progress and success made across the country in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all hazards.

Request: Funded at \$350 million since 2011, *NEMA and IAEM request a 5 percent inflationary increase in FY19 to \$368 million.* Given the matching requirement, this \$18 million increase over FY18 would cause an increase of at least \$36 million in emergency management spending through this federal, state, and local partnership. Estimates show the amount required to bring all eligible jurisdictions to the 50 percent reimbursement level is \$116,125,878.

2. **Training and Education.** The President’s Budget Request for FY19 recommends a \$129 million reduction in Education, Training, and Exercises within FEMA Federal Assistance. This proposal undercuts the ability to further train current emergency management and homeland security officials and build leadership capacity with an eye toward the future. Programs such as the Center for Homeland Defense and Security (\$18 million, enacted) are how baseline leadership

is created in the homeland security industry, and with homeland security in a constantly evolving threat dynamic, such programs should be held an example for others.

Request: *Restore the \$129 million in proposed cuts to FEMA's Training and Education account and fully fund CHDS at the FY18 enacted level of \$18 million.*

- 3. Predisaster Mitigation (PDM).** Stated plainly, mitigation saves money, lives, and resources during the response and recovery to a disaster. The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), in concert with FEMA, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and found mitigation funding can save the nation \$6 in future disaster costs, for every \$1 spent on mitigation. Understanding this trend, Congress wisely increased PDM to \$249 million in the FY18 Omnibus, a \$149 million increase over FY17 enacted. Unfortunately, the President's FY19 Budget Request recommended a funding level of only \$39 million.

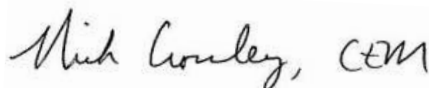
Request: Consistency is critical for a program such as PDM, so we request you *maintain PDM at FY18 enacted funding levels of \$249 million, \$149 million above FY19 and \$210 million above the President's FY19 request.*

- 4. Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).** Mutual aid agreements, such as EMAC, remain critical to mounting an effective response in the wake of a disaster and mobilizing tested emergency management capabilities across city, county, tribal, and state lines. For example, since February 2017, over 19,000 state and local personnel deployed through EMAC in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, the Las Vegas shooting incident, winter storms, and wildfires in California, Montana, and Oregon.

Request: Increased demands on the nation's mutual aid system requires additional support for modernization, better integration, and expansion of the EMAC system. Therefore, *we request \$4 million in FY19, a \$2 million increase over the FY18 Omnibus and FY19 President's Budget Request.*

Emergency managers across the country stand ready to achieve national calls to reduce the costs of disasters, minimize the impact to our communities, and lessen the likelihood of future events. To accomplish these goals, however, the federal government must stand with us as a willing partner. By supporting these initiatives, you can demonstrate Congress' role in this partnership and ensure a reaffirmation across all levels of government to our shared commitment to national preparedness.

Sincerely,



Nick Crossley, CEM
President, IAEM-USA



Michael A. Sprayberry
President, NEMA

cc: Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senator Jon Tester, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Homeland Security