



May 21, 2021

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

On behalf of the state and local emergency managers across the country, we ask you to please codify one of the two supplemental amounts you recently provided for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) as you develop the FY22 302(b) allocations for the Department of Homeland Security. This would bring the annual appropriation to \$455 million.

Over the past year, you generously provided \$100 million in supplemental funding in both the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan. Jurisdictions used these funds to initiate interagency planning; procure, distribute, and manage PPE and medical supplies; conduct vaccine distribution and site logistics; and conduct public information and messaging. These activities are just as critical to other disasters and help directly drive down the cost of disasters requiring assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Disaster Relief Fund.

In FY 20, there were 228 disasters requiring a major or emergency declaration while state, local, and territorial governments managed an additional 19,752 events without additional federal expenditures. In addition to the early stages of the pandemic response, such events included hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, severe winter weather, earthquakes, and derechos. EMPG provides the necessary support to build and sustain capabilities necessary to protect residents and avoid the escalation of an event.

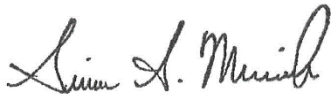
Additionally, the investment of an additional \$100 million in the regular appropriation for EMPG will help state and local emergency managers codify FY20 successes such as:

- 16,978 statewide and local **preparedness outreach campaigns** reaching 115 million residents;
- 4,020 state and local **exercises** reaching 138,821 responders;
- 5,134 **training classes** providing 75,954 personnel advanced levels of knowledge; and
- 4,960 state and local **mutual aid agreements** which minimize the need for immediate federal support.

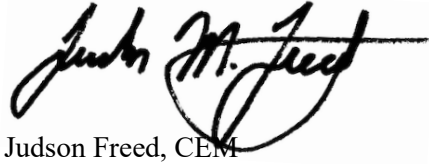
While we come to you requesting additional federal assistance through EMPG, please remember you are not alone in this endeavor. For every dollar Congress appropriates for EMPG, state and local governments must match dollar-for-dollar. EMPG is the only grant program within FEMA requiring this shared level of commitment, and our members gladly meet the challenge by often over-matching the grant. At just over \$1 per resident, the \$455 million investment in this program could realize more than \$900 million worth of benefit nationwide.

Combined, NEMA and IAEM represent the state emergency management directors of all 50 states, territories, the District of Columbia, and more than 4,200 local emergency managers. We appreciate your continued support and partnership in this endeavor to build and sustain a more robust emergency management system and hope you can find a way to achieve our goal of seeing EMPG funded at \$455 million in FY22.

Sincerely,



Sima Merick
NEMA President



Judson Freed, CEM
IAEM-USA President