

November 16, 2021

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Dirksen Senate Office Building 340  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman  
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Dirksen Senate Office Building 340  
Washington, DC 20510



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Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Portman:

The U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA), the nation's largest emergency management professional association with approximately 5,000 members across the country, is pleased to strongly support the nomination of Erik Hooks to be the Deputy Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). IAEM-USA represents THE profession dedicated to protecting America's local communities from all hazards and threats, natural and human-made.

Erik Hooks is a known entity within the homeland security and emergency management community, and he is highly respected by his professional peers.

For the last four and half years, he has led the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, which works very closely with FEMA to coordinate emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. North Carolina has had more than its fair share of federally declared disasters, as well as hosted numerous National Special Security Events. His extensive experience will be beneficial to other states, tribes, and territories who are preparing for or recovering from a disaster.

Hooks also has experience serving as the State Administrative Agent responsible for administering federal grant funds to state, local, and tribal entities...a skill set that will be invaluable when directing those programs at the federal level.

Hooks' nomination has been endorsed by his former employer, Governor Roy Cooper of NC, as well as his future leadership, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. IAEM, too, believes Erik Hooks has unquestionable credentials and the experience needed to be the Deputy Administrator at FEMA. We respectfully urge a speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn J. Harshman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Carolyn J. Harshman, MPA, CEM  
President, International Association of Emergency Managers