



August 29, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Leader Schumer, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the undersigned associations representing emergency managers, first responders, floodplain and flood risk managers, and state and local governments, we implore you to act swiftly on either a Continuing Resolution (CR) or the Administration’s request for an additional \$12 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The DRF provides funding to support state and local efforts during the long response and recovery process after a disaster. In the absence of the DRF being adequately funded, recovery projects grind to a halt and FEMA implements punitive measures stifling response efforts. Funding the DRF will ensure that Hawaii and Louisiana will be able to continue their response and immediate recovery from their devastating wildfires, that California can move ahead with recovery from the first west coast hurricane since 1939, and that southeast and mid-Atlantic states will have the resources and support necessary for the latter, and typically busiest, part of hurricane season.

The Administration’s supplemental request would provide FEMA with \$12 billion in funding to replenish the DRF. Alternatively, Congress often allows FEMA to receive a full-year apportionment for the DRF under a CR, so completing such a stop-gap measure as quickly as possible upon your return from recess would also bolster the DRF.

Either of these options provides FEMA with the necessary funds to continue supporting state and local governments and disaster survivors during their most pressing time of need. We appreciate your support of one of these options.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
Anthropocene Alliance
Association of State Floodplain Managers
Big City Emergency Managers
BuildStrong Coalition
International Association of Emergency Managers
International City/County Management Association
International Code Council
National Association of Counties
National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Emergency Management Association
National Hazard Mitigation Association
National League of Cities
The Council of State Governments
United States Conference of Mayors