



September 10, 2021

The Honorable Dina Titus, Chairwoman
The Honorable Daniel Webster, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Titus and Ranking Member Webster:

On behalf of the three associations representing state and local emergency management nationwide, we wish to convey our support for the efforts of Representative Graves of Missouri to introduce the *Small Project Efficient and Effective Disaster (SPEED) Act*.

When managing a disaster under the Stafford Act with assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), projects falling below a certain threshold are considered “small.” While this threshold is adjusted annually for inflation, the Fiscal Year 2020 level was a mere \$131,000. These small projects require less administrative burden at the local, state, and federal levels which means their approval and execution time is significantly faster than larger projects. The SPEED Act will raise this threshold to \$1,000,000, thereby significantly increasing the number of projects that can be expedited during the recovery to a disaster.

This type of modernization to disaster response and recovery programs will allow us as emergency managers to more swiftly move projects for disaster survivors and expedite the road toward recovery. As we work individually and with one another to build resilience nationwide, tools such as the SPEED Act will simplify and streamline FEMA programs when survivors need them most.

We thank Representative Graves for his foresight on this issue and appreciate your leadership in ensuring the SPEED Act sees action in your subcommittee and throughout the legislative process. Please contact NEMA Deputy Director Matt Cowles (mcowles@csg.org), IAEM Director of Government Affairs Thad Huguley (thad@huguleyconsulting.com) or BCEM Executive Director Ron Prater (rprater@bigcityem.org) if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Sima Merick
NEMA President

Judson Freed, CEM
IAEM-USA President

Mark Sloan
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