



May 28, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair  
The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cole, Senator Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Senator Collins:

On behalf of state, tribal, and local emergency managers across the nation, the International Association of Emergency Managers, National Emergency Management Association, and Big City Emergency Managers wish to highlight the following priorities as you develop the FY25 spending bills for the Homeland Security and Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittees:

### **Homeland Security**

Last year's funding reductions to the **Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG)** are of our highest concern as they directly affect our ability to build and sustain a nationwide emergency management system. Congress must restore EMPG to at least FY23 funding levels of \$355 million. In FY23, emergency managers handled at least 27,229 events at the state and local level without federal assistance, in addition to the 60 federal disaster declarations. This capability is due in large part to the success of the EMPG program and 50/50 match requirement, despite the program already being underfunded by \$100 million. The FY24 funding reductions will result in reduced capabilities when the nation is experiencing an increase in the number and severity of disasters and the predictions for the upcoming hurricane season are more severe than ever.

The **State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)**, **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)**, and **Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP)** work in harmony with one another to ensure state and local officials have the ability to assist in national preparedness efforts. During this time of heightened threats by nation-state actors, the FY24 reductions to these programs directly impede our ability to ensure the safety and security of our citizens, especially those being

specifically targeted. We ask that the funding levels for these three programs return to the FY23 levels of \$601 million, \$711 million, and \$305 million, respectively.

Training and education programs within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) form the foundation upon which the nation can standardize doctrine, advance the homeland security and emergency management professions, and incorporate national priorities into everyday functions. In FY25, we ask you to fund the **Emergency Management Institute** at the administration's request of \$32.042 million and the **Center for Homeland Defense and Security** at the FY23 level (and FY25 administration's request) of \$18 million.

The **Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)** facilitates state-to-state support through pre-arranged agreements, enhancing the ability to manage disasters comprehensively across all hazards and disciplines. By leveraging EMAC, states can deploy well-trained personnel nationwide, acting as force multipliers and alleviating the burden on the federal government. In the past year through EMAC, 45 states sent 5,377 personnel on 230 missions to assist in events such as the Maui fires, Hurricane Idalia, and tornadoes. In FY24, you were generous enough to provide an additional \$250,000 for this program to make long-awaited expansions to EMAC's capability, and we ask you include this again for a total of \$2.25 million in FY25.

The **Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)** and the **Certified Emergency Manager® (CEM)** designation measure the capabilities of and improve the performance of emergency management programs and individual emergency managers. We urge Congress to invest in the assessment and accreditation of emergency management programs and personnel by appropriating at the FY23 level of \$1,000,000 for EMAP and \$500,000 for CEM.

#### **Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

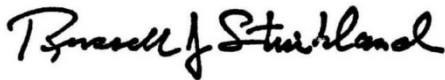
Finally, we urge the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee to fund the **National Weather Service (NWS)** for FY25 at no less than the President's budget request of \$1.37B; restore the effective \$45M in cuts from the FY24 budget; and provide full support for the other weather-related functions of the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**. With the frequency of severe weather-related events on the rise, we feel strongly that Congress must maintain and grow the NWS workforce, fully support maintenance requirements, and invest in new equipment and technologies necessary to executive and advance the NWS mission.

With strong budgetary support from Congress, NWS continues making significant progress over the past several years on efforts including: Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) and future improvements, Advanced Weather Interactive Processing Systems (AWIPs) in the Cloud, Incident Meteorologists (IMET) support for wildfires, co-locating support at Emergency Operations Centers, next-generation radar coverage, spot forecasts, and additional outreach opportunities to professions such as emergency managers.

We understand the funding constraints of operating under your respective 302(b) allocations. Emergency managers maintain responsibility for increasingly complex and diverse threats that require resources to sustain effective risk monitoring and management. In recent years, emergency managers assumed responsibilities such as a global pandemic, the opioid crisis, and safety and humanitarian concerns at the southern border. Recently, these responsibilities continue expanding in response to emerging nation-state actor threats. Programs such as the ones mentioned above ensure the resources and knowledge to combat these complex issues remain available at the state and local levels.

Our memberships remain at your disposal should you require any additional background or technical assistance on any of these programs and we look forward to working with you during the appropriations process for FY25.

Sincerely,



Russell J. Strickland  
President, NEMA



Justin Kates  
President, IAEM-USA



Mark Sloan  
Board Chairman, BCEM

cc: Chairman Amodei and Ranking Member Cuellar  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Chairman Murphy and Ranking Member Britt  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Chairman Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies