**Suggested Letter to Send to President Trump Regarding Reorganization of FEMA**

I applaud and wholeheartedly support your commitment to downsize and streamline the federal bureaucracy. A top to bottom review of all federal programs is long overdue, and I stand with you as you carry out this massive task.

I am writing to you today regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). I understand and share your frustrations with FEMA’s role and function in disaster management, but the federal/state/local emergency management enterprise is a sound concept, particularly when the scale of a disaster completely overwhelms state and local resources.

I fully support the direction you laid out in your Executive Order of January 24 creating a Council to assess FEMA. The Council will provide a forum for a complete inventory of all existing emergency management-related authorities and for thoughtful and intentional consideration about how best to streamline those authorities to improve the programs that communities rely on to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

In short, I respectfully urge you to allow the FEMA Council, with input from state and local emergency management practitioners, to complete the tasks you outlined in your executive order as a first step in re-building confidence in federally supported, state administered, and locally executed disaster response and recovery. We have to get this right, and you have created a structure that can and will do just that, but it is going to take some time.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.