Subject: Urgent Need to Support Emergency Managers During Critical FEMA Changes

Dear [Elected Official's Name],

I am writing to you today as a dedicated [Your Role/Title, e.g., Volunteer Coordinator, Program Manager, Board Member] at [Your Organization's Name], a non-profit/volunteer organization deeply committed to [Your Organization's Mission, e.g., disaster preparedness, community resilience, humanitarian aid] in [Your Community/Region]. My purpose in reaching out is to address the potential negative impacts of ongoing significant changes within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on our local disaster response capabilities and to advocate for the crucial support of emergency managers during this transitional period.

As you are aware, FEMA plays a vital role in our nation's disaster response and recovery efforts. However, the agency is currently undergoing substantial restructuring and policy shifts, which, while aimed at streamlining processes, pose a real risk of adversely affecting staffing levels and financial support for critical disaster initiatives at the state and local levels. These changes could unintentionally create gaps in resources, expertise, and timely assistance when our communities need it the most.

Emergency managers, particularly those of us working in non-profit and volunteer organizations, often serve as the frontline responders and long-term recovery facilitators in our communities. We bridge the gap between government agencies and the affected population, relying heavily on stable and predictable partnerships with federal entities like FEMA. Disruptions to FEMA's operational capacity, or the support mechanisms it provides, directly impact our ability to protect lives, alleviate suffering, and accelerate recovery.

**A Personal Reflection on FEMA's Impact:**

I want to share a brief personal story that highlights the vital role FEMA has played in my work and our community's resilience.

[**Insert Your Personal Story Here:** Please provide a specific, concise narrative (2-4 sentences) that highlights a time FEMA's support, resources, or collaboration directly enabled you or your organization to make a significant positive impact during a disaster or preparedness effort. For example:

To safeguard our community's ability to respond effectively to future emergencies, I respectfully urge you to:

1. **Champion Stable Funding:** Advocate for consistent and robust federal funding for state and local emergency management agencies, as well as for non-profit and volunteer organizations involved in disaster response and recovery, ensuring that FEMA's internal changes do not result in financial shortfalls at the community level.
2. **Prioritize Staffing and Expertise:** Support initiatives that guarantee FEMA has sufficient staffing and expertise, especially in regional offices and specialized functions essential for immediate disaster response and long-term recovery planning.
3. **Facilitate Communication and Training:** Encourage clear, ongoing communication from FEMA about its changes and ensure that adequate training and resources are provided to local emergency managers and partner organizations to adapt to new procedures.
4. **Engage with Local Stakeholders:** Seek input from local emergency managers, non-profits, and volunteer groups to understand the real-world impact of FEMA's evolving policies and to identify possible areas of concern or opportunity.

The strength of our disaster response lies in the seamless collaboration among federal, state, local, and non-governmental entities. As emergency managers, we stand ready to adapt and continue our vital work, but we need the proactive support of our elected officials to navigate these challenging transitions within FEMA.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to the safety and well-being of our community. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss these matters further with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Organization's Name]

[Your Contact Information: Email, Phone Number]

[Your Organization's Website (Optional)]