



October 17, 2019

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chairman  
The Honorable Jon Tester, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Chairwoman  
The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Capito, Chairwoman Roybal-Allard, Ranking Member Tester, and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

Congratulations on completing your work on legislation making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). We appreciate your continued support of emergency management and homeland security priorities, particularly the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

EMPG stands as a critical driver of progress and success across the country in helping states and local jurisdictions prepare for, respond to, and recover from the full range of hazards facing our citizens. The federal investment in EMPG is currently \$350 million – a little more than \$1 per citizen – and with the match requirement and additional state and local investment, the return on investment exceeds \$700 million. Therefore, the proposed \$5 million increase in the Senate bill and proposed \$25 million increase in the House bill will have a national impact of \$10 to \$50 million.

EMPG provides the necessary support to build and sustain capabilities necessary to protect citizens, avoid the escalation of an event, and saves post-disaster expenditures by the federal government. Take for example FY18 when 66 disasters required a major or emergency declaration by the President. During that same time period, however, capabilities afforded through EMPG allowed state and local emergency managers to handle 23,331 additional events without federal expenditures.

The undersigned associations may have many funding priorities within DHS and FEMA, but today we come together in recognition of this program and the capabilities it sustains. We appreciate your continued support, respectfully endorse the \$25 million increase in the House version of the bill and look forward to our continued partnership in ensuring the nation's ability to respond to disasters.

Sincerely,



Matthew D. Chase  
Executive Director  
The National Association of Counties



Brad Richy  
President  
National Emergency Management Association



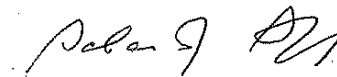
Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



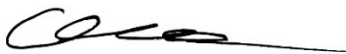
Marty Shaub, CEM  
President  
International Association of Emergency  
Managers – U.S. Council



David Adkins  
Executive Director/CEO  
The Council of State Governments



Barb Graff  
Chair  
Big City Emergency Managers



Clarence E. Anthony  
CEO and Executive Director  
National League of Cities