

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Gary Peters
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Dirksen Senate Office Building 340
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Dirksen Senate Office Building 340
Washington, DC 20510



IAEM Headquarters
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA
22046-4527 USA
703-538-1795
www.iaem.org

Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Portman:

The U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA), the nation's largest emergency management professional association with approximately 5,000 members across the country, is pleased to strongly support the nomination and confirmation of Deanne Criswell to be the next Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). IAEM-USA represents the profession dedicated to protecting America's local communities from all hazards and threats, natural and man-made.

The Committee is certainly aware of Ms. Criswell's sterling credentials as an emergency management professional. She has more than 25 year of leadership experience assisting and supporting local and state governments as they build robust emergency management programs to support risk threat and management. She also understands and respects the symbiotic relationship between state and local emergency managers and the role each plays in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters.

In her current position as Commissioner of the New York City Emergency Management Department, Ms. Criswell is tasked with managing one of the most demanding and complex emergency management operations in the profession. She has thrived in that role and has proven she is capable and ready to step up and take charge at FEMA.

Of great importance to IAEM-USA, Ms. Criswell recognizes the value of all the emergency preparedness, response, and mitigation grants administered by FEMA in building capacity at the state and local levels. She recognizes that creating a culture of preparedness falls on state and local emergency managers and requires federal support if implementation of that goal is going to be successful. In short, Ms. Criswell understands and respects the role of FEMA as a partner with state and local stakeholders.

In closing, Deanne Criswell has impeccable credentials, and IAEM-USA strongly believes she is the right person for the job. We strongly recommend her to the Committee, and we urge a speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judson M. Freed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Judson Freed, CEM
President
U.S. Council
International Association of Emergency Managers