



October 24, 2023

The Honorable Gary Peters, Chairman
Homeland Security & Governmental
Affairs Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rand Paul, Ranking Member
Homeland Security & Governmental
Affairs Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Paul:

On behalf of the collective memberships of our associations, we urge swift action by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on S. 3071, the *Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act*. This legislation will have deep and long-lasting impacts on the ability of emergency managers to build nationwide capacity.

When managing disaster declarations, state and local governments coordinate billions of dollars in federal grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). To help offset the administrative requirements of these grants, FEMA regulations allow recipients to utilize a percentage for management costs. These management costs, however, are limited to each specific disaster declaration and regulations do not allow grantees to economize by managing workloads across all open disasters. This bill does not represent new funding or a new program but will allow state and local emergency managers to utilize management costs across all open disasters which will support longer-term recovery and mitigation capacity-building; incentivize disaster close-out; and drive down the costs of disasters nationwide.

The legislation will allow states with more robust recovery and mitigation capacity to assist states with infrequent declarations, and therefore less capacity, through programs such as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Emergency managers will also be able to manage smaller disasters and declarations without a large FEMA footprint thereby allowing FEMA to focus their resources on catastrophic events.

We look forward to working with you on securing passage of this bill through the committee and the full Senate.

Sincerely,

Big City Emergency Managers
BuildStrong Coalition
International Association of Emergency Managers
National Emergency Management Association
National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters