



August 28, 2023

The Honorable Dave Joyce, Chairman
The Honorable Henry Cuellar, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Murphy, Chairman
The Honorable Katie Britt, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Joyce, Chairman Murphy, Ranking Member Cuellar and Ranking Member Britt:

On behalf of state and local emergency managers across the nation, the Big City Emergency Managers, International Association of Emergency Managers, and National Emergency Management Association, we wish to thank you for your support in recent years and most recently during the creation of your respective FY24 committee marks for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As you begin conference negotiations, we wish to raise a couple of issues for your consideration.

We understand the funding constraints of operating under your respective 302(b) allocations, however, grant funding to states and locals under Federal Assistance for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should not be used as the balancing function. Emergency managers are tasked with increasingly complex and diverse threats that require additional resources to maintain effective risk monitoring and management. Programs such as the Emergency Management Performance Grant, State Homeland Security Grant Program, and Urban Area Security Initiative should be held at no less than FY23 levels. We therefore encourage you to cede to the House mark on this issue.

Similarly, the Senate reductions placed upon the training and exercise programs within FEMA would have a direct, deleterious effect on preparedness efforts nationwide. Programs such as the Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS), the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), and Emergency Management Institute (EMI) form the bedrock of preparedness efforts. We encourage you to reaffirm your commitment to preparedness and adopt the House proposal for these programs.

States tying each other responding to disasters, in lieu of federal assets, drives down disaster costs. Expanding the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) from \$2 million to \$2.5 million, as included in the Senate mark, will allow for modernization, integration, and expansion of EMAC and national mutual aid. This would represent the first increase for EMAC in over a decade.

The Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) and the Certified Emergency Manager® (CEM) designation measure the capabilities of and improve the performance of emergency management programs and individual emergency managers. We urge the House to accept Senate increases above the requested amount to ensure total programmatic resources of \$500,000 for CEM and \$1 million for EMAP.

The language included by both the House and Senate related to FEMA defining “resilience” and holding DHS accountable for recent increases in the set-aside for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activity (LETPA) is welcomed oversight by your committees. Both efforts reflect a lack of stakeholder input but have a direct impact on operations at the state and local levels. We support your willingness to hold both FEMA and DHS accountable on these issues and look forward to working with you through implementation.

Our memberships remain at your disposal should you require any additional background or technical assistance on any of these programs and we look forward to working with you during the close-out of the process for FY24 and throughout oversight implementation.

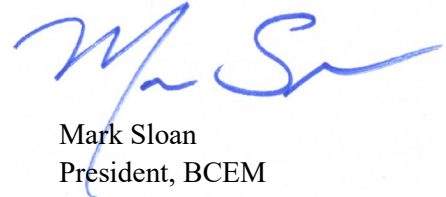
Sincerely,



Patrick S. Sheehan
President, NEMA



Cathy Clark, MA
President, IAEM-USA



Mark Sloan
President, BCCEM