



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC, 20528

Mr. Cameron Hamilton
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear President Trump, Secretary Noem, and Mr. Hamilton:

As the U.S. Representatives for Louisiana's 2nd and 6th Congressional Districts, we have profound concerns regarding potential plans to eliminate long-term disaster recovery efforts under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A robust federal disaster response agency is essential to ensure rapid response, coordinated resource distribution, financial and logistical support, equitable assistance, and long-term mitigation as natural disasters increase in frequency and severity.

Of particular significance is the fact that our districts, and the state of Louisiana, have been major recipients of FEMA assistance, with nearly 500,000 combined households applying for FEMA funds since 2021. However, Louisiana is far from the only recipient of this critical aid and assistance. In 2024, FEMA responded to over 100 disasters, including two catastrophic hurricanes—Helene and Milton—that struck within two weeks, causing widespread destruction. Additionally, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported 27 weather and climate disaster events in the U.S. last year that had losses exceeding \$1 billion. This staggering number underscores FEMA's vital role in supporting communities during their most vulnerable moments.

From Hurricane Katrina in 2005, to more recent devastating storms including Hurricanes Ida and Francine, Louisiana has intimately understood the necessity of long-term disaster recovery. FEMA has been a lifeline for our communities, providing not just immediate relief, but the critical support needed to rebuild and become more resilient. The proposed changes would strip away this essential safety net.

Of particular concern are the reported plans to:

1. Dramatically reduce FEMA's responsibilities to only immediate disaster response
2. Eliminate funding for long-term community rebuilding efforts

3. Halt critical grant programs that help communities prepare for future disasters
4. Dismantle the existing review process for FEMA's operational improvements

With hurricane forecasts predicting yet another active season, these proposed changes could not come at a more dangerous time. Communities like those we represent cannot afford to lose FEMA's comprehensive support. With those concerns in mind, we ask that you provide us with answers to the below questions by April 30, 2025.

1. With the proposed budget cuts and structural changes to FEMA, how will the agency ensure that disaster response times and resource distribution remain efficient and effective, especially for vulnerable communities?
2. What specific strategies or programs is FEMA implementing to help communities better prepare for disasters despite potential funding and staffing reductions?
3. Given the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, how does FEMA plan to maintain or improve its mitigation and resilience-building initiatives under the proposed changes to its operational structure?

The resilience of American communities depends on a robust, comprehensive approach to disaster management. The proposed changes would significantly compromise our nation's ability to respond to and recover from natural disasters.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this critical matter and look forward to your commitment to fully supporting FEMA's essential mission.

Sincerely,

Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter Sr.
Member of Congress