

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2025

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

The Honorable David Richardson
Senior Official Performing the Duties of
FEMA Administrator
500 C St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Administrator Richardson,

We are writing to urge the Administration to reinstate the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant (BRIC) program within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). BRIC funds are spurring communities across the country to strengthen their resilience to extreme weather, and forgoing these critical investments will only make it harder and more expensive for communities to recover from the next storm. We acknowledge that the BRIC program, like all grant funding programs, has room for improvement, and we urge you to couple the reinstatement of the program with an opportunity for Congress and FEMA to improve the application review and funding distribution process to more effectively reduce the costs disasters pose to our communities, economies, and livelihoods.

The BRIC program was established by Congress in the 2018 Disaster Recovery Reform Act and signed into law by President Trump with bipartisan support. In the years since, this program has catalyzed community investments in resilient infrastructure, saving federal funds by investing in community preparedness before a disaster strikes.

According to research, one dollar invested in disaster mitigation can save up to \$18 in response and recovery expenditures.¹ BRIC funds are making communities safer in the next storm through projects like upgrading and protecting wastewater and drinking water plants after the facilities suffered repeated flooding, or bridge upgrades and road drainage improvements to improve driver safety. Because of its benefits, the demand for BRIC grants continues to increase, and our states and communities benefit from the reliability of the funding cycles.

The BRIC program also plays an essential role in helping Tribal Nations and rural communities strengthen their defenses against natural disasters and safeguard critical infrastructure. Through BRIC, Tribes and rural communities can access dedicated funding to strengthen community resilience by investing in hazard mitigation projects—such as flood protection, fire prevention,


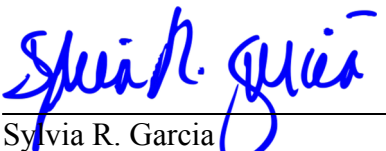
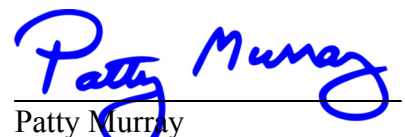
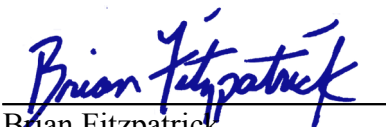

¹ Congressional Budget Office. (2016). Potential increases in hurricane damage in the United States: Implications for the federal budget (Publication No. 51518). <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/51518>; Dixon, L., Tsang, F., & Fitts, M. (2017). Coastal flood risk reduction and economic evaluation of projects: The case of coastal Louisiana. RAND Corporation. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1992.html; U.S. Chamber of Commerce (2024) <https://www.uschamber.com/security/the-preparedness-payoff-the-economic-benefits-of-investing-in-climate-resilience>; U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2019). Disaster resilience: Actions are underway, but federal fiscal exposure highlights the need for continued attention to longstanding challenges (GAO Publication No. GAO-20-100SP). <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-20-100sp>; Melecky, M., & Raddatz, C. (2019). The economic effectiveness of disaster risk reduction: A case study from the Philippines. UNU-WIDER Working Paper 2019/7. <https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/economic-effectiveness-disaster-risk-reduction>.

and infrastructure hardening—that are otherwise difficult to finance in rural or remote settings. Importantly, FEMA supports Tribal sovereignty by allowing Tribes to apply directly for funding, reserving a dedicated Tribal set-aside, and providing direct technical assistance—ensuring Tribes can lead their own planning and mitigation efforts.² These investments not only strengthen community resilience but also honor the federal trust responsibility to support the safety, self-determination, and well-being of Tribal Nations.

At the same time, we acknowledge that the BRIC program should be evaluated for opportunities to increase efficiency and reduce the complexities for recipients to access the critical resources.³ The benefits of the program should not be concentrated in or limited to jurisdictions with dedicated offices and the staff necessary to navigate the grant application requirements. Additionally, the program should be updated with a strategic approach that empowers states and local governments to address degraded and vulnerable infrastructure based on their localized priorities and understanding of risk.

We urge the Administration to take swift action to reinstate the BRIC program, and to work with Congress to identify and implement reforms to strengthen our nation’s resilience for decades to come.

Respectfully,


Chuck Edwards
Member of Congress
Thom Tillis
United States Senator
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress
Patty Murray
United States Senator
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

² *Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Tribal Information*, FEMA Program Support Material (Aug. 2022), https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_fy22-bric-tribal-information-psm.pdf.

³ <https://headwaterseconomics.org/natural-hazards/rising-demand-for-femas-bric-program-far-exceeds-available-funding/>

Ed Case

Ed Case
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Alma S. Adams

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Angela D. Alsobrooks

Angela Alsobrooks
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

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Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Lisa Blunt Rochester

Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Rob Bresnahan, Jr.

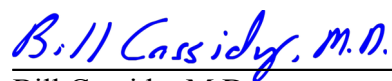
Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
Member of Congress

Nikki Budzinski

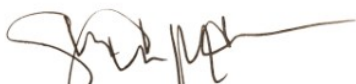
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



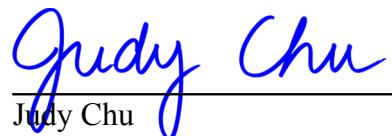
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



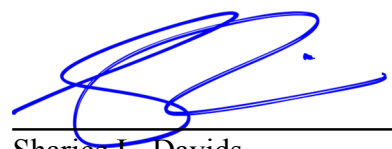
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



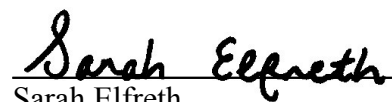
Angie Craig
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Sharice L. Davids
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Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



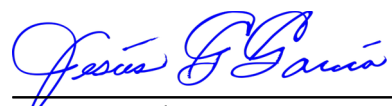
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



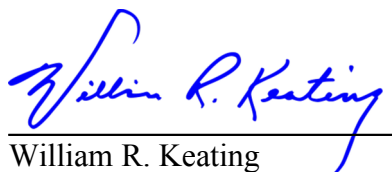
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



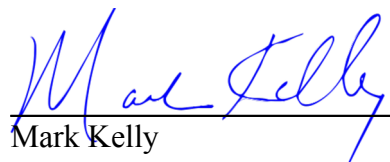
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



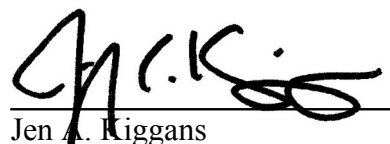
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



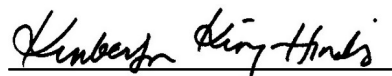
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



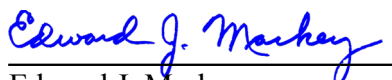
Jen A. Riggans
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Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress




Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



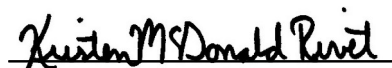
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



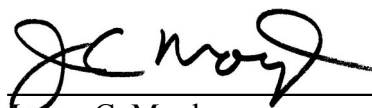
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



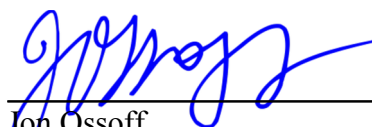
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



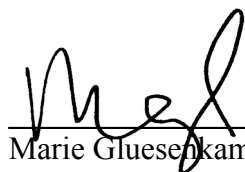
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress





Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

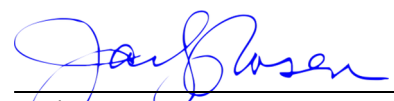



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

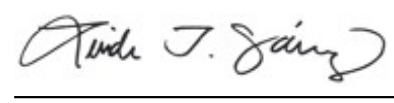

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

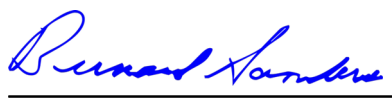

Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
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Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator



John H. Rutherford
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Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

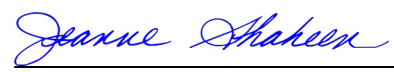

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress


Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator


Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress


Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



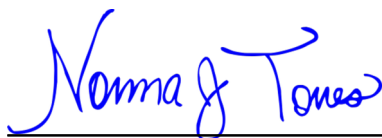
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



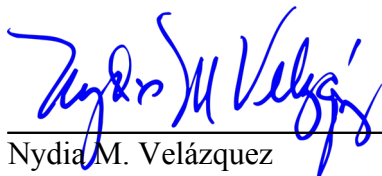
Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



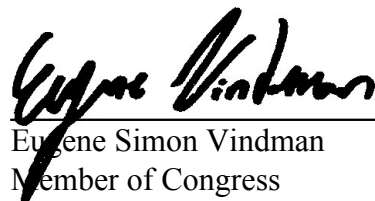
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



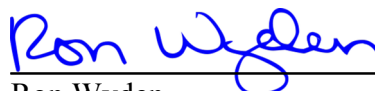
Peter Welch
United States Senator



Frederica S. Wilson
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Robert J. Wittman
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Ron Wyden
United States Senator