

April 14, 2025

Dear Member of Congress,

We, the undersigned consumer protection, disaster recovery, climate, science and resilience, housing and environmental justice organizations, and more, urge Congress to oppose Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's calls to dismantle the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—the agency responsible for helping state, local, tribal, and territorial governments prepare for and recover from disasters—as she guts key resilience, preparedness, and disaster recovery programs.

The administration's calls to transfer the burden of disaster preparedness and response obligations to state and local governments by gutting FEMA or eliminating the agency altogether are dangerously out of step with reality. Climate-driven extreme weather is ravaging our communities. From the deadly back-to-back Hurricanes Milton and Helene last fall, to this year's devastating LA wildfires and recent historic heavy rainfall and extensive flooding across Southern and Midwest states, American communities need resources to prepare for and recover from more frequent and severe extreme weather.

Communities benefit from federal assistance like FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program that helps them strengthen infrastructure and mitigate the impacts of disasters. Research shows that [investing](#) in disaster preparedness and resilience saves money in the long run, in addition to safeguarding livelihoods—and saving lives.

Shifting the responsibility for disaster recovery to state governments—many of which are already under-resourced—is dangerous. States, especially smaller ones or those hit repeatedly by extreme weather, don't have the capacity and resources needed to respond to today's scale of climate-related disasters on their own. FEMA plays a vital role in stepping in to support state and local governments when hurricanes, wildfires, and floods overwhelm them, helping to repair roads and bridges, clear debris, and provide direct aid like food, shelter, and emergency assistance to survivors. The toll of increasingly severe climate disasters is stark. Last year alone, states across the U.S. were slammed with [27 billion-dollar disasters](#). Without a well-resourced and functioning FEMA, communities will be left without the lifesaving resources they need when a major disaster hits.

FEMA also administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that provides flood insurance to millions of Americans. While NFIP has serious challenges that must be addressed, it is the main—and sometimes only—flood insurance option available to most homeowners in flood-prone areas. It needs a strong, well-sourced agency to administer and enforce the policies. Dismantling FEMA puts this program in serious limbo and creates uncertainty for families that need to protect their homes and assets from inevitable flooding.

FEMA remains one of the few federal lifelines for communities trying to recover and rebuild from extreme weather, climate-related impacts, natural hazards, and other events. Now is the time for Congress to stand against unjustified attacks against FEMA and reject senseless cuts that will

leave communities defenseless when a catastrophic disaster hits. Dismantling federal emergency preparedness programs is a direct threat to the safety, stability, and recovery of millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

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A House Unbuilt

Alabama Interfaith Power & Light

Americans for Financial Reform

Appalachian Citizens' Law Center

Carrizo/Comecrudo Nation of Texas

Center for Economic Justice

Center for Insurance Research

Coalition for Home Repair

Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

Consumer Action

Consumer Federation of America

Extreme Weather Survivors

Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana

For a Better Bayou

Freeport Haven Project

Friends of the Earth

Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA)

Greenpeace USA

Health Care Without Harm

Hispanic Access Foundation

HousingLOUISIANA

HousingNOLA

Illinois Environmental Council

Iowa Environmental Council

Kentucky Waterways Alliance

League of Conservation Voters

Louisiana Bucket Brigade

MARBE SA

New York Communities for Change, NYCC

One Mississippi

Partnership for Policy Integrity

Prairie Rivers Network

Presente.org

Public Citizen

Stand.earth

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods, Inc.

The National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)

The People's Justice Council

The Phoenix Group

Third Act Illinois

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Upper Mississippi River chapter of the Izaak Walton League

Union of Concerned Scientists