

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Mark Amodei
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Amodei & Ranking Member Cuellar,

The Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) is the backbone of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from major disasters. It provides FEMA with the resources necessary to deliver emergency assistance, coordinate large-scale response operations, and support long-term recovery for affected communities through programs authorized under the Stafford Act. In the aftermath of recent hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and other extreme events, the DRF has played a critical role in helping individuals rebuild their lives and in restoring damaged infrastructure. As disasters become more frequent, more severe, and more costly, the demands on FEMA continue to grow. Without sustained and robust funding, the federal government's ability to protect lives, stabilize communities, and reduce future risk is severely undermined. **As Members of Congress committed to strengthening our nation's preparedness and recovery capabilities, we strongly support the inclusion of robust funding for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Homeland Security Appropriations bill.**

The DRF appropriation funds the Stafford Act programs run by FEMA that help communities respond to and recover from disasters. With DRF funding, FEMA provides direct help to families for housing, personal property, and other critical needs. FEMA uses DRF funds to help state, local, tribal, and territorial governments repair and rebuild essential public infrastructure. FEMA also helps states and communities reduce future risk by strengthening homes, infrastructure, and community resilience with DRF resources. These programs are critical to helping disaster survivors rebuild and protecting communities against future events.

The demands placed on FEMA continue to grow as the frequency, intensity, and cost of disasters rise. In recent years, the United States has experienced dozens of billion-dollar disasters annually, causing hundreds of billions of dollars in damages. FEMA has projected funding shortfalls for the DRF at the start of every fiscal year since 2023, underscoring the gap between available resources and actual needs. Disasters are no longer isolated events. Fires, hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes increasingly occur simultaneously or in quick succession, placing extraordinary strain on FEMA's ability to sustain ongoing recovery efforts while responding to new emergencies. Without robust and sustained investment in the DRF, FEMA's ability to respond to disasters and support long term recovery will be at serious risk.

When the DRF is at imminent risk of running short of funds, FEMA cannot deliver the full scope of authorized assistance to stricken communities. To stretch limited resources and continue responding to immediate threats, FEMA is forced to impose Immediate Needs Funding (INF) restrictions, for the immediate response needs in the wake of a disaster. While INF allows FEMA to continue responding to immediate emergencies, it leaves communities exposed by halting critical recovery and mitigation efforts. Without DRF funding that factors in the intensity of the current disaster environment, the federal government cannot meet its responsibility to protect lives, restore communities, and rebuild after disaster.

Robust and sustained investment in the DRF will ensure FEMA can deliver immediate assistance after disasters, support long-term recovery, and strengthen community resilience. This funding will protect lives and reduce the long-term costs of disaster recovery. We urge the Committee include **robust funding for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Homeland Security Appropriations bill.**

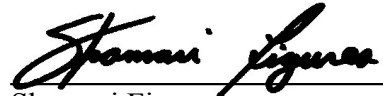
Sincerely,



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



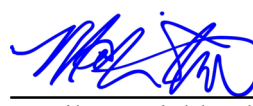
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



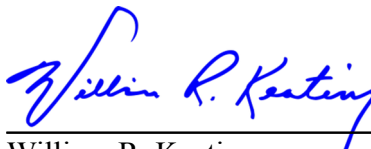
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



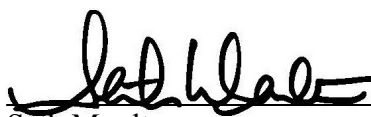
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



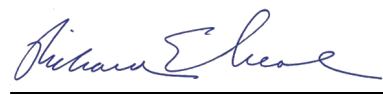
Jasmine Crockett
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Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



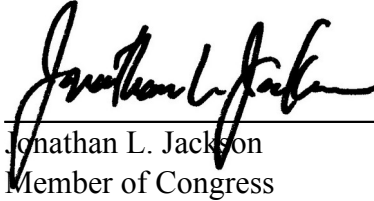
Seth Moulton
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Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



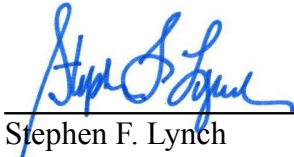
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



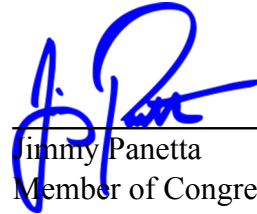
Deborah K. Ross
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Sarah McBride
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress




Jim Costa
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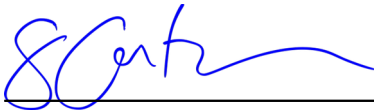
Lateefah Simon
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Darren Soto
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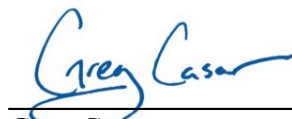
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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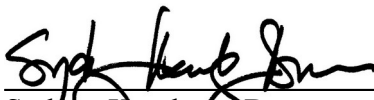
Sean Casten
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Terri A. Sewell
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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Julie Johnson
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



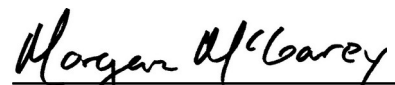
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



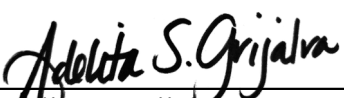
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress




Andre Carson
Member of Congress

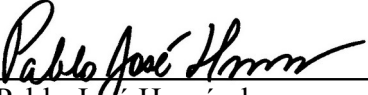


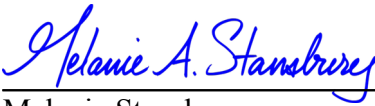
Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress


Adelta S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



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



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress

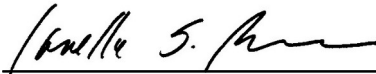

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Melanie Stansbury
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George Latimer
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Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Janelle S. Bynum
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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