

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Your administration's actions are increasing the likelihood that Americans will die from extreme weather events.

Americans are reeling from the devastating impacts of flash floods in New Mexico, Texas, and North Carolina, and those are only the more recent cases. Natural disasters will continue to happen, and yet your administration has moved aggressively to *increase* the suffering caused by extreme weather events.

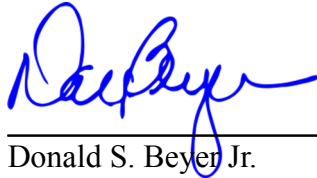
- You have fired National Weather Service (NWS)ⁱ, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)ⁱⁱ and United States Geological Survey (USGS)ⁱⁱⁱ staff who model and monitor extreme weather, create flood maps, and respond to natural disasters.^{iv}
- Your administration has effectively cancelled federal support for flood mitigation nationwide: You announced an intention to eliminate the bipartisan Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program enacted in your first term, which is a cornerstone of our nation's hazard mitigation strategy to reduce disaster risk and prepare for disasters before they strike^v; pulled funding from the Flood Mitigation Assistance program for 2025 and removed application access; as well as stopped approving new allocations from the Hazard Mitigation and Grant Program.^{vi}
- Under your direction, FEMA has denied federal assistance for tornadoes in Arkansas (approved after an appeal)^{vii}, flooding in West Virginia (some approvals after appeal), a windstorm in Washington state, and flooding in western Maryland and Oregon.^{viii} FEMA also has refused North Carolina's request for an extension of federal relief and delayed relief to Virginia, as recovery efforts from Helene continue.^{ix} And the Administration has yet to fulfill the full federal disaster relief funding request for the devastating fires in Los Angeles, and has slowed releasing funds for any FEMA spending over \$100,000 until the Secretary personally signs off.^x
- Interior has announced the closure of 25 USGS scientific centers that monitor waters for flooding and drought, which helps inform NWS flood warnings ^{xi}
- FEMA also laid off contractors after their contracts expired on July 5, leaving nearly two-thirds of calls to its disaster assistance line unanswered in the critical days after the recent flooding disasters that have left more than 100 dead.^{xii}

- The elimination of USAID resulted in delayed deployment or no deployment of elite urban search and rescue teams to help disaster survivors.^{xiii}
- Your Administration also rolled back the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, which required federal agencies to consider flooding risk for infrastructure projects that receive federal funds and locate them outside of low-lying, flood-vulnerable areas whenever practicable.
- The Department of Defense planned to cut the National Weather Service off of satellite weather data at the start of the hurricane season in the Atlantic, leaving hurricane forecasters without time sensitive information, and a US Army Corps of Engineers sea level rise calculator has gone offline.^{xiv}
- You have also fired the scientists working on the upcoming National Climate Assessment, which informs the costs of these extreme weather events, what steps can be taken to mitigate them, and helps states and local government as well as private companies understand their natural hazard risks and how to mitigate them.^{xv}
- You have also, intentionally, spread misinformation about disaster response – both in North Carolina and Los Angeles.^{xvi}

Severe weather events are growing in frequency, severity, and cost, and your Administration's actions are making it worse.^{xvii} Decisions that add to the human and financial toll of natural disasters fail the most basic standard of protecting the American people. The broader effort to weaken federal disaster capabilities, like dismantling FEMA, and shift the burden to already overextended states is not only willfully negligent but reckless and dangerous. The 5th National Climate Assessment shows that billion-dollar disasters are increasing in frequency and now strike every three weeks, costing the U.S. nearly \$150 billion annually, not including lives lost and long-term health and environmental impacts.^{xviii} State and local governments lack the resources, capacity, and technical expertise to meet the scale and speed of today's escalating disaster threats without robust federal support.^{xix} Weakening the federal response doesn't just fail to protect people, it actively undermines national preparedness and leaves every community in America more vulnerable when major disasters strike.

If your Administration is serious about responding to the tragedies of these natural disasters and saving American lives, it will immediately restore federal employees at the National Weather Service, FEMA, NOAA, and USGS who are critical to disaster response and preparedness, restore the scientists working on the National Climate Assessment, reenforce the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, and restore and fully fund FEMA and programs like BRIC that enable communities to prepare for disasters and recover effectively. Immediate restoration of federal disaster response staff and programs is essential to protect lives and ensure national preparedness.

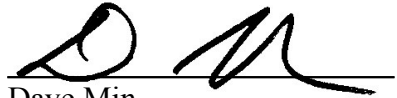
Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



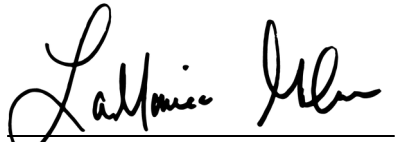
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



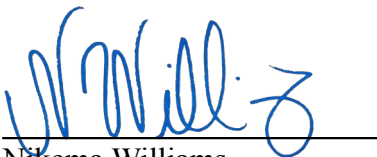
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



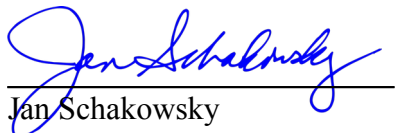
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



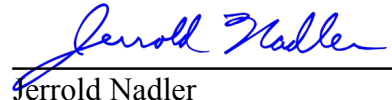
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



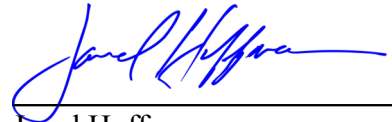
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



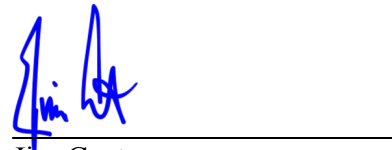
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



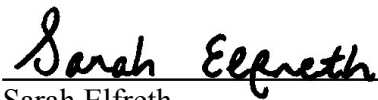
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



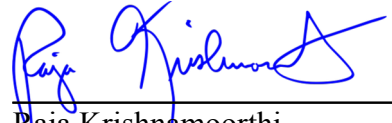
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



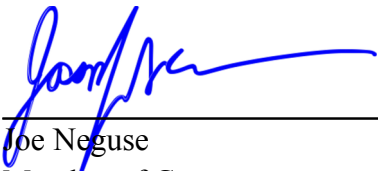
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



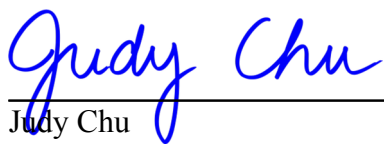
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



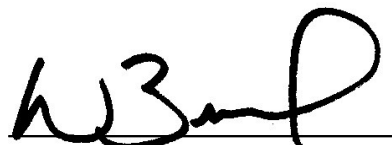
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



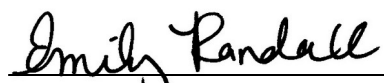
Deborah K. Ross
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Wesley Bell
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Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



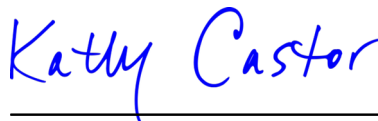
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Lizzie Fletcher
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Kathy Castor
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Darren Soto
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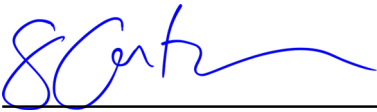
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



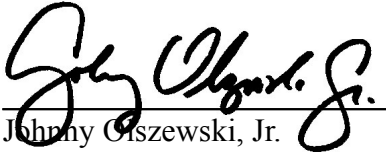
Val Hoyle
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Sean Casten
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Al Green
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Johnny Giszewski, Jr.
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Lloyd Doggett
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Mark Takano
Member of Congress



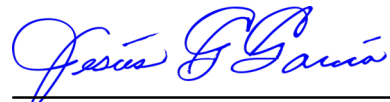
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



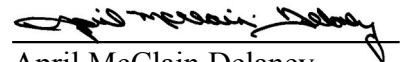
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



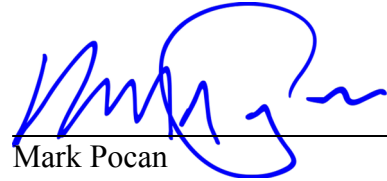
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



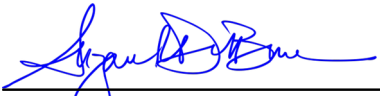
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



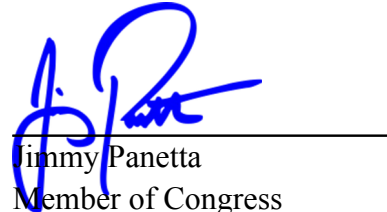
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



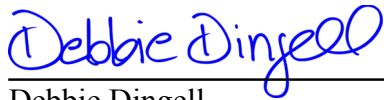
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



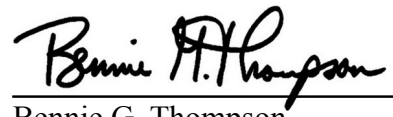
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



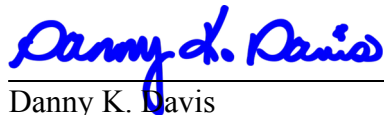
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



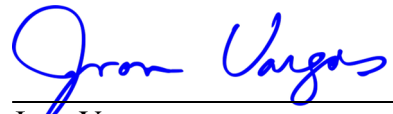
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress




Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress




Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress




Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress




Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress




John B. Larson
Member of Congress




Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



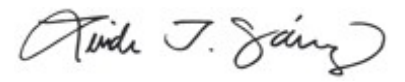
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



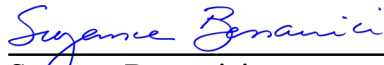
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress




Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



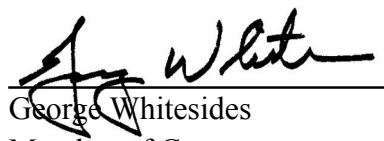
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



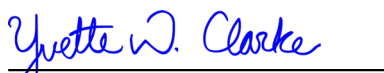
André Carson
Member of Congress




George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress

- ⁱ [Deadly floods could be new normal as Trump guts federal agencies, experts warn | The Guardian](#); [Omaha-based NWS office will deploy weather balloons again after DOGE cuts | Nebraska Examiner](#); [National Weather Service Will Reportedly Hire Hundreds After Backlash Over Staffing Cuts | Forbes](#)
- ⁱⁱ [DOGE Cuts Contributed to Texas Flood Impact—Former NOAA Administrator | Newsweek](#)
- ⁱⁱⁱ [USGS experts responding simultaneously to two major natural hazards | U.S. Geological Survey](#)
- ^{iv} [Former National Weather Service leaders warn about "loss of life" from NOAA cuts | CBS News](#)
- ^v [FEMA cuts sink Norman's automated flood warning plan | KGOU](#)
- ^{vi} [Donald Trump cuts hazard funds, increasing disaster risk | The Hill](#)
- ^{vii} [Arkansas to Appeal Federal Denial for Individual Assistance for March 14 Storm System | Arkansas Department of Public Safety](#)
- ^{viii} [Trump denies disaster aid, tells states to do more | Stateline](#); [Trump denies Maryland's request for FEMA aid after devastating floods | The Washington Post](#); [Harney County reels from 'slap in the face' FEMA denial | OPB](#)
- ^{ix} [Trump cuts will lead to more deaths in disasters, expert warns: 'It is really scary' | The Guardian](#); [Trump Denies FEMA Aid Extension in State He Won Three Times | Newsweek](#); [New FEMA review process muddies the timeline for disbursement of Helene recovery funds | Cardinal News](#)
- ^x [Texas flooding focuses attention on Trump's disaster relief | The Washington Post](#); [Trump and GOP push conditions for California fire aid, outraging Democrats | The Washington Post](#); [FEMA leader is a no-show after deadly Texas flooding | POLITICO](#)
- ^{xi} [Trump officials gut 25 centers that monitor flooding and drought in the US | The Guardian](#)
- ^{xii} [FEMA Didn't Answer Thousands of Calls From Flood Survivors, Documents Show | The New York Times](#)
- ^{xiii} [Trump's USAID cuts cripple American response to Myanmar earthquake | The Washington Post](#); [Fairfax disaster relief task force spared from USAID gutting so far | FFXnow](#); [Notice of Pause Exemption provided to Beyer Office](#)
- ^{xiv} [Defense department cuts weather satellite data | NPR](#); [Army Corps Sea Level Change Calculator | USACE](#);
- ^{xv} [Trump administration dismisses nearly 400 scientists working on congressionally mandated national climate report | CBS News](#)
- ^{xvi} [After the deluge, the lies: Misinformation and hoaxes about Helene cloud the recovery | AP News](#); [Some in North Carolina embrace Trump's push to abolish FEMA | AP News](#); [FEMA Isn't Ready for Disaster Season, Workers Say | WIRED](#); [Texas flooding focuses attention on Trump's disaster relief | The Washington Post](#); [Trump and GOP push conditions for California fire aid, outraging Democrats | The Washington Post](#)
- ^{xvii} [Flood deaths are rising in the U.S., fueled by heavier rainfall | The Washington Post](#); [Hurricane damage to health, social systems cause thousands of extra deaths | The Washington Post](#); [Heat-Related Deaths Have Increased More Than 100% Since 1999 | TIME](#); [Climate change is making floods like New York, Texas, North Carolina more likely | NPR](#); [Noem demands more control over FEMA and Homeland Security funding, which could slow disaster response | CNN](#)
- ^{xviii} [Fifth National Climate Assessment | NOAA](#)
- ^{xix} [As Trump Shrinks FEMA, State and Local Emergency Managers Say They're Barely Getting By | Inside Climate News](#); [Get Rid of FEMA? Some States Will Hurt More Than Others. | Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#); [The Trump Administration Wants to Shrink the Federal Government's Role in Disaster Management. Do States Have the Fiscal Capacity to Weather the Storm? | Urban Institute](#)