

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 6, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Department of Homeland Security
300 7th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Mullin:

We urge you to approve waivers for and fully fund two projects in Oregon that were selected for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding in Fiscal Year 2022 and broke ground pre-award. Amidst the suspension of the BRIC program, these projects were forced to proceed to construction because recipients could not afford further delays without severely increasing project costs or jeopardizing the overall success of the project. The delay in funding has created substantial stress on these rural communities.

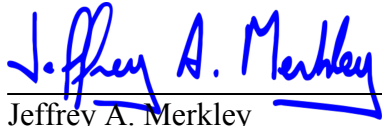
The following projects met all federal regulations and requirements set forth by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) prior to the suspension of the BRIC program and were forced to break ground during the intervening period. These projects will require a waiver to access their awarded and obligated funding. We ask that you provide these waivers immediately and allow these projects to continue as scheduled. These projects include:

- Clatsop County Columbia Memorial Hospital: FEMA selected Clatsop County and Columbia Memorial Hospital to receive \$14 million in BRIC funding to build a tsunami-resilient hospital expansion in Astoria, featuring a vertical evacuation structure for 1,900 people. The recipients had begun spending down the funds when the BRIC program was suspended. The construction portion of the project was forced to begin in early 2026 due to the short construction window available.
- Grants Pass Water Treatment Plant Relocation: The City of Grants Pass was selected to receive \$50 million in BRIC funding to relocate their Water Treatment Plant outside their Special Flood Hazard Area to prevent system failure during a flooding event in Grants Pass. The project broke ground in July 2025 and is about 20 percent complete.

In addition to these two projects, there are currently 19 projects in Oregon that were selected for either Fiscal Year 2022 or Fiscal Year 2023 funding and are awaiting the award and obligation of their funding. We urge you to promptly award these funds as these projects remain critical to the long-term resilience of these communities.

Communities across Oregon have relied on BRIC funding to ensure their resiliency in the face of future natural disasters. These, mostly rural, communities that FEMA selected for BRIC funding in prior years all have significant need for the assistance. We urge you to ensure the swift completion of applicable waivers, reviews, and release of funds, in accordance with previous commitments.

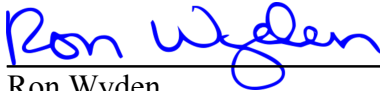
Sincerely,



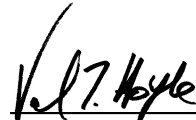
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



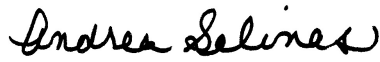
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



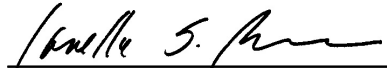
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress