

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2026

Mr. Cameron Hamilton
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Mr. Vincent J. Maykovich
Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
130 228th Street, SW
Bothell, WA 98021

Dear Administrator Hamilton and Mr. Maykovich:

We write in support of the State of Oregon's appeal of the denial of a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) application on July 22, 2026 for the East Evans Creek Fire, located 14 miles northeast of Rogue River, Oregon in Jackson County. The fire broke out on the afternoon of July 10, 2026, and quickly spread due to dry conditions and high temperatures.

We believe that Oregon's appeal demonstrates that the costs associated with the mitigation, management and control of the East Evans Creek Fire on public and private forest land threatened destruction to the degree that it constituted a major disaster. At the time of the state's request, the East Evans Creek fire demonstrated substantial and escalating threats under Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) criteria. In their appeal, the State provided further clarity and evidence supporting the need and criteria met under the FMAG program.

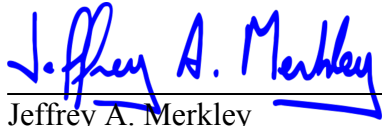
At the time of the initial application, the fire had reached over 15,700 acres with over 3,100 structures threatened, one unoccupied structure lost, and hundreds of homes at a Level 3 "Go Now" Evacuation. In addition to homes, the East Evans Creek Fire posed a direct threat to commercial structures, natural resources, and critical public infrastructure.

This fire placed significant and sustained demands on local firefighting and emergency management resources, with personnel working for weeks on end to secure and protect property and human life. The Oregon Department of Forestry's Complex Incident Management Team 1, State Fire Marshal Blue Team, local fire departments, law enforcement, emergency managers, and other responders worked extended hours throughout the incident. Their efforts included supporting residents during evacuations, maintaining emergency services, protecting homes and property from advancing fire, and providing assistance to those evacuating and to protect their homes and property from threat of both fire and other risks during the many weeks of evacuation orders.

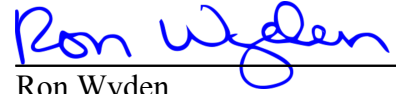
Oregon has consistently demonstrated an ability to be a good steward of federal funding, and we are confident that the State will be effective and efficient with these funds should the Federal Mitigation Assistance Grant be awarded for this incident.

We thank the Agency for its attention to this urgent matter. We encourage FEMA to grant this appeal and retroactively approve the FMAG for the East Evans Creek Fire to ensure that the necessary cost incurred for firefighters and state officials to fight the East Evans Creek Fire is covered.

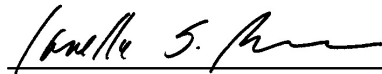
Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



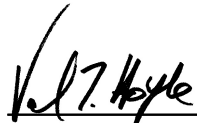
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress