

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 15, 2021

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell:

We write concerning the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) preparations for the 2021 wildfire season.

As you know, Oregon, and the rest of the West, experienced an unprecedented and destructive wildfire season in 2020. Over 50,000 fires burned 10 million acres, with fires lasting well into the fall. As we approach another potentially catastrophic wildfire season, many Oregonians continue to struggle to return to the pre-disaster state of normal. The approval of the long-awaited cost-share adjustment for the 2020 wildfire season is critical to our recovery efforts and we thank you for that.

We appreciate the steps that you have taken to prepare for the 2021 wildfire season. For example, continuing to allow FEMA's Regional Administrators to approve requests for Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) will help expedite the flow of resources into the state and ensure that state agencies can quickly respond to fires knowing they have the financial resources to do so. In order to better understand FEMA efforts to prepare and respond to this wildfire season, we ask that you respond to the following questions:

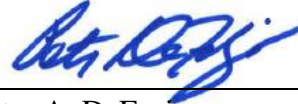
- What steps have you taken to ensure that there are sufficient commodities in FEMA distribution centers in the event of a major disaster due to wildfire, and can you provide a detailed accounting of what is immediately available in FEMA's nearest distribution centers?
- What steps have you taken to streamline and strengthen approvals for registrants for FEMA's Individual and Households Program (IHP) to ensure that Oregonians who need federal assistance receive it?
- What steps have you taken to streamline review of applications for IHP and lessen the complexity of associated communication with registrants in light of the unprecedented number of requests received by FEMA resulting from recent natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What resources does FEMA have available to help communities respond to the adverse impacts of wildfire smoke in the event of a major disaster?

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your efforts to continue helping Oregon recover from last year's disasters and prepare for the imminent wildfire season.

Sincerely,



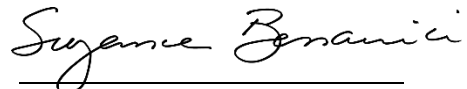
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Peter A. DeFazio
United States Representative



Ron Wyden
United States Senator




Suzanne Bonamici
United States Representative



Cliff Bentz
United States Representative



Earl Blumenauer
United States Representative



Kurt Schrader
United States Representative