## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security 500 C Street, SW, 8th Floor Washington, DC 20472 The Honorable Cameron Hamilton Acting Administrator Federal Emergency Management Agency 500 C Street, SW, 8th Floor Washington, DC 20472

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Administrator Hamilton,

We write to stress our deep concerns with the reckless termination of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, as well as to underscore the risk that halting any approved and awarded BRIC projects poses to our constituents. These decisions will harm states, tribes, territories, and local communities that face the increasing threat of natural disasters.

In 2020, President Trump established BRIC to invest in pre-disaster mitigation and strengthen community resiliency to respond to natural disasters that are increasing in frequency and severity. Since its inception, BRIC has served as a lifeline for our constituents that face the constant fear of fires, floods, landslides, and more. Across our districts, natural disasters are no longer confined to a "season"; instead, the risks persist throughout the year, and it's critical to prepare our communities as we learn to live with worsening natural disasters. Building resilient communities is an undeniable role of the federal government, and the unlawful termination of BRIC abandons our commitment to the communities that we serve.

Therefore, we request FEMA share information about how, and to what extent, the Trump Administration's actions are impacting disaster preparedness across the country. Specifically, please respond to the following questions:

- 1. Provide a list of approved and awarded BRIC projects that will not receive their funding after April 4th, 2025 guidance. Please include:
  - a. Project contact(s);
  - b. Project descriptions;
  - c. Physical addresses or geographic coordinates for each project;
  - d. Amount of funding awarded;
  - e. Amount of funding obligated;
  - f. Amount of funding not-yet drawn down by awardees.
- 2. Steps awarded project sponsors should take to draw down remaining funds and finalize crucial contracts needed to commence construction;

- 3. An explanation of how your agency is monitoring and investing in wildfire readiness, community preparedness, or hazardous fuels management goals; and
- 4. A timeline for your plans to resume implementation and disbursement of Congressionally approved and obligated BRIC funding.

The urgent and timely need for action on natural disaster preparedness and mitigation cannot be overstated. Any delay in funding and implementation of critical programs threatens the safety and resilience of our communities. We request a response to this urgent inquiry by April 22nd, 2025.

Sincerely,

Brittany Pettersen Member of Congress

Jared Huffman Member of Congress

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Ted W. Lieu Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici

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Betty McCollum Member of Congress

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Debbie Wasserman Schultz Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Member of Congress

John B. Larson Member of Congress

N Tokule

JU Tokuda Member of Congress

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

J. Luis Correa Member of Congress

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Mary Gay Scanlon Member of Congress

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Becca Balint Member of Congress

Eleano H. Moton

Eleanor Holmes Norton Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters Member of Congress

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Greg Casar Member of Congress

Katly Castor

Kathy Castor Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill Member of Congress

Troy A. Carter, Sr. Member of Congress

Sarah McBride Member of Congress

Juan Vargas Member of Congress

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Rashida Tlaib Member of Congress

ason Crow Member of Congress

Nikki Budzinski Member of Congress

Chk Km

Deborah K. Ross Member of Congress

**C**lenn Ivey

Member of Congress

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Brad Sherman Member of Congress

Elfreth

Sarah Elfreth Member of Congress

Bernie Water Colema

Bonnie Watson Coleman Member of Congress

Val Hoyle Member of Congress

Maggie Goullonder Maggie Goodlander

Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby Scott Member of Congress

Jassamin Jusan Isamin Ansari

Member of Congress

Mark Pocan

Member of Congress

Timothy M. Kennedy

Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Don's Matsui

Doris Matsui Member of Congress

Chris Pappas Member of Congress

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Eric Sorensen Member of Congress

Maxine Dexter Member of Congress

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Diana DeGette Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Sam T. Liccardo Member of Congress

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Jennifer L. McClellan Member of Congress

Adam Smith Member of Congress

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Shontel M. Brown Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr. Member of Congress

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Frederica S. Wilson Member of Congress

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Emily Randall Member of Congress

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Eric Swalwell Member of Congress

Robert Garcia Member of Congress

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William R. Keating Member of Congress

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Mike Levin Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal Member of Congress