

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 13, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chair Murray, and Vice Chair Collins:

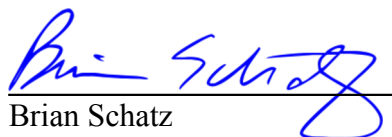
We write as members representing states with ongoing disaster recovery needs to request additional disaster relief funding through a supplemental appropriations package, including additional funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) and Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR).

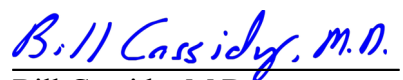
We appreciate your efforts to support disaster recovery thus far this Congress, but urgent and pressing needs in our communities require more support. The additional \$16 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief fund (DRF) that Congress approved last year as part of the September continuing resolution has gone a long way towards supporting the immediate needs in many disaster-impacted communities. However, new and ongoing recovery efforts require further DRF funding to ensure core disaster response needs are addressed. In addition, other recovery needs that cannot be addressed through FEMA disaster recovery funding persist. To ensure that disaster recovery progress continues, and that communities can truly begin to rebuild, CDBG-DR funding is of paramount importance.


Our states experienced varying degrees of damage and have unique recovery needs. While we appreciate the federal support through existing permanently authorized disaster recovery programs, there is no one federal program that will directly address the distinct unmet needs of our communities in these difficult times. That is why over the past 30 years, Congress has allocated nearly \$100 billion in CDBG-DR funding to disaster-impacted communities in nearly every state and territory. This tried-and-true program provides flexible financial support that communities can use to address unique outstanding needs unmet by other federal streams of assistance. Our states require this federal support to rebuild.


The futures of our communities depend on the Senate's action this year. Thank you for working with us to provide relief to our states.


Sincerely,


Brian Schatz
United States Senator


Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


Thom Tillis
United States Senator


Alex Padilla
United States Senator


Dan Sullivan
United States Senator