



American Flood Coalition Action (AFCA) applauds Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen for their bipartisan leadership on the Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025.

AFCA is the nonprofit, 501(c)(4) advocacy arm of the American Flood Coalition (AFC), a nonpartisan nonprofit focused on advancing common sense solutions to flooding. AFC drives transformational adaptation efforts grounded in the experience of its nearly 500 members — mayors, county officials, cities and towns, state lawmakers, governors, as well as nonprofit, business, and military leaders — across 21 states.

We commend the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure for prioritizing this proposal, which is among the most significant overhauls of FEMA, federal disaster assistance, and proactive resilience programs in decades.

If enacted, this proposal would transform our broken federal disaster recovery system, help survivors get back on their feet faster and ensure that communities across the country can rebuild expeditiously while increasing resilience to future disasters.

Within the FEMA Act, AFCA particularly supports the following six top priorities that would address many challenges that AFC's coalition members and communities face across the country.

- **Upfront funding:** Under the FEMA Act, communities would receive project-based grants for repairs to infrastructure funded through FEMA's Public Assistance program, allowing them to jumpstart recovery, rather than waiting years for reimbursement while straining local budgets.
- **Modernized processes:** Practical reforms to open the door for innovative technologies such as drones and satellites during damage assessments.
- **Less red tape:** The FEMA Act would simplify burdensome and duplicative processes, helping communities and individuals recover without navigating a maze of rules and time-consuming applications.
- **One-stop application portal:** A universal application would replace the current patchwork of different agency applications and forms, a game-changer for disaster survivors and their elected leaders.
- **Clear denial and appeal process:** Disaster survivors would receive plain-language decisions, making it easier to understand and navigate appeals while ensuring fairness.
- **Strengthening communities' ability to prepare for disasters:** The legislation strengthens the BRIC program to give states more authority and flexibility to invest in proactive resilience projects.

Together, these reforms would help communities respond smarter, recover faster, and rebuild better prepared for the next disaster. AFCA applauds the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure for considering this much-needed package and looks forward to it moving through the legislative process and enactment into law.