



August 7, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), representing the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs, we write to express our strong support for the bipartisan *Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669)*. This legislation provides long-overdue reforms to streamline disaster recovery, increase transparency and efficiency and make federal assistance more accessible to the communities we serve.

Counties are the nation's frontline responders during disasters – providing emergency services, clearing debris, operating shelters and managing long-term recovery. Yet we often face an overly bureaucratic and delayed federal process that slows our ability to deliver timely support to residents and rebuild critical infrastructure. The FEMA Act directly addresses these barriers.

Specifically, we support key provisions in the FEMA Act that will have a transformative impact on county disaster response and recovery:

- **Universal Disaster Application:** This will simplify and unify survivor applications across federal agencies, reducing confusion, duplication and delays for disaster survivors during the most stressful times of their lives.
- **Public Assistance Program Reform:** Transitioning from a reimbursement-based model to a grant-based model for FEMA Public Assistance will ensure counties – many of which operate on tight budgets – can more quickly restore vital infrastructure without needing to front millions of dollars.
- **Public Assistance Dashboard:** Increased transparency and visibility into the status of project approvals, obligations and disbursements will help counties plan better, hold partners accountable and identify bottlenecks.
- **Mitigation Program Reforms:** Modernizing FEMA's mitigation programs will allow counties to proactively address vulnerabilities before the next disaster strikes, better protecting lives, property and taxpayer dollars.

At this critical moment – with growing disaster frequency, increased financial strain and persistent recovery challenges – the FEMA Act offers counties a pathway to more timely, coordinated and effective disaster assistance. The bill recognizes counties as essential partners in emergency management and reflects meaningful engagement with local officials across the country.

We thank you for your leadership in advancing this legislation and urge swift passage of the FEMA Act to better serve our residents and strengthen the nation's disaster response and recovery framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew D. Chase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

Matthew D. Chase
CEO and Executive Director