

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-405 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write regarding a grave concern for the nation's ability to prepare and respond to natural disasters. On August 7, 2024, FEMA announced that the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), the primary fund of the federal government's disaster relief programs, was insufficient to meet all current Stafford Act requirements. We urge you to replenish this fund as soon as possible so FEMA can continue its mission to help our communities recover from past disasters while mitigating future events.

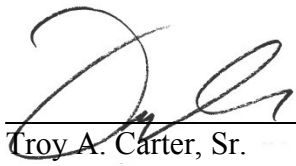
Given the depletion of the DRF, the agency is now implementing Immediate Needs Funding (INF)—redirecting money from other programs to respond to the most urgent, lifesaving needs. However, implementing INF will result in stalled payments for past disasters and grant awards, potential staff furloughs, and delays in future disaster planning measures. While FEMA may be able to continue its life-saving missions in the near term, these delayed payments put communities at risk of future disasters by delaying critical disaster planning and hazard mitigation construction projects. The agency projects a DRF deficit greater than \$6 billion by the end of FY2024 without supplemental appropriations.

The nation has already been victim to 15 weather and climate disasters that cost at least \$1 billion in 2024, on top of a record year of disaster events last year. NOAA predicts that this will be the busiest hurricane season on record. This is the second straight year that the DRF has been nearly depleted—a last-minute continuing resolution in late September 2023 replenished the fund.

We ask that Congress act again soon to pass DRF funding so FEMA can work at full capacity. One potential legislative option has already been filed, H.R. 8716, which would provide FEMA with \$7 billion in supplemental funding, enough to keep the DRF funded through the fiscal year.

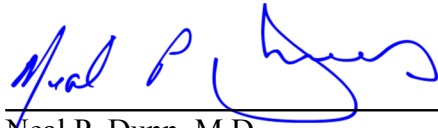
Thank you for considering this urgent request.

Sincerely,



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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



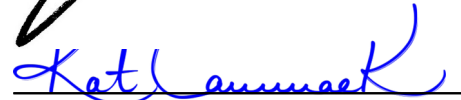
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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress