

Extreme Weather Survivors Action Fund

February 11th, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Schumer,

We are 93 organizations supporting disaster survivors, working for climate resilience, and/or working in communities impacted by floods, wildfires, hurricanes, extreme heat, winter storms, and other disasters. We are writing to urge Senate Democratic leadership to stop the flow of funds to DHS, including through continuing resolutions, until meaningful changes are enacted that will bring an end to the violence and abuse carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Furthermore, disaster survivors and FEMA should not be treated as political leverage in broader fights over DHS funding.

As organizations dedicated to helping Americans prepare for, respond to, and recover from extreme weather and disasters, we have expressed ongoing concerns about how FEMA has been utilized in recent years and the resulting challenges this has created for the agency's ability to serve communities effectively. In the context of current pressures facing American cities and communities, we are particularly concerned about the combined effects of DHS immigration enforcement policies, which may further strain disaster recovery efforts and affect community safety and trust. Survivors should never be forced to choose between safety from disaster impacts and safety from unlawful actions by federal agents. Unfortunately, DHS's actions have forced more and more Americans to face this dilemma.

We want to be clear: protecting FEMA's mission is essential, and concerns about FEMA funding should not be used to justify continued funding for DHS without significant reform. FEMA currently has nearly \$27 billion available and a workforce capable of maintaining essential operations, even during federal funding disruptions. Yet, lifesaving recovery and resilience projects are being delayed due to opaque

internal

approval processes, leaving disaster-impacted communities stuck in prolonged displacement and facing higher long-term costs. Congress can and should fix this by restoring FEMA as a transparent, efficient, and independent agency outside of DHS's control so that its lifesaving mission is no longer obstructed or politicized. Moreover, Congress has a clear alternative to fund disaster recovery. It can, and must, pass a disaster supplemental that provides FEMA and HUD long-term recovery funds for 2025 and 2026 disasters, so survivors across the country, including in California, North Carolina, and Texas, can finally receive the long-term assistance they are still waiting for and need.

We require your leadership in defending vulnerable communities and ensuring federal disaster resources prioritize recovery, dignity, and safety. We stand ready to support any effort that strengthens equitable disaster response, protects access to FEMA assistance, and rebuilds trust in our communities by ending these abuses.

Sincerely,

A2 (Anthropocene Alliance)

A Community Voice

AccessAbility

Access Center for Independent Living

Affordable Homeownership Foundation

Alaska Coalition on Housing & Homelessness

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

AZ AANHPI Advocates

The Bill Anderson Fund

Buy-In Community Planning, Inc.

California Coalition for Rural Housing

Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons

Catawba County Long Term Recovery Group (CatCo LTRG)

Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
Church World Service

Climate Defenders

Climate Justice Alliance

Climate Refugees

Climigration Network

Coalition on Human Needs

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Conservation Law Foundation

Consumer Federation of America

Consumer Watchdog

COPE Elkhorn

Dept of Health - Hawaii State Council on Disability

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

Disaster Central

Disaster Justice Network

Earth Ethics, Inc.

Earth Guardians

EcoEquity / Climate Equity Reference Project

Extreme Weather Survivors Action Fund Fair

Share Housing Center

Firmes, Unidos y Resilientes con la Abogacía Inc.

Florida Immigrant Coalition

Food & Water Watch

Friends of the Earth Action

Garden State Community Development Corporation
Hispanic Federation
Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey
Inland Ocean Coalition
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
Joseph's House of Camden
Just Economics West North Carolina
Just Solutions
Las Manos Trabajadoras que Mueven el Mundo
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice
Livelihood Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN)
Louisiana Just Recovery Network
Louisiana Organization For Refugees and Immigrants (LORI)
Lowlander Center
Make Polluters Pay
Maui Housing Hui
MDC Inc
Methane Action
Micah Six Eight Mission
NAACP
National Coalition For Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD)
National Consumer Law Center
National Healthcare for the Homeless Council
National Housing Law Project

National Immigration Law Center

National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Partnership for New Americans NC

Disaster Response and Resilience Network

The Parents' Climate Community

The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Public Citizen

The Redress Movement

Reimagine Appalachia

Resiliency Law Center

Seeding Sovereignty

Stand.earth

Stand Up Nashville

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition

Texas Housers

Texas Women's Foundation

Third Act

Three Rivers Waterkeeper

Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation

UCC Disability Ministries Board

Union of Concerned Scientists

United Native American Housing Association

Week of Compassion

West Street Recovery

Western Center on Law and Poverty

World Institute on Disability

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

CC:

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)

Senator John Fetterman (D-PA)

Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH)

Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)

Senator Angus King (D-ME)

Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV)

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)