

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. David Richardson
Senior Official Performing the Duties of
FEMA Administrator
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Secretary Noem and Mr. Richardson,

We write with great concern regarding the decision to end the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and cancel all BRIC applications from Fiscal Years 2020-2023. Given its impact on the State of California, which stands to lose over one billion dollars in promised resilience funding, we urge you to reconsider this decision.

The BRIC program, established in the 2018 Disaster Reform Act and signed into law by President Trump, has distributed \$5 billion in grants since its inception, driving investment in resilient infrastructure. While we understand and support the need to find efficiencies and improve the BRIC program, these grants save federal dollars and help protect our most vulnerable communities through emergency preparedness.

Projects in the State of California include drought and earthquake mitigation projects in Kern and Tulare counties and wildfire management projects in Santa Cruz, Napa, Sonoma, and Nevada counties, all of which are still working to recover from the 2020 wildfires that were some of the deadliest and costliest wildfires in the State's history. This BRIC funding, which included a match from local homeowners, would have funded home hardening, defensible space fuels reduction, evacuation route fuel reduction, and landscape-scale fuel reduction work. We are deeply concerned about the impact of this decision. If FEMA decides to ultimately withdraw its federal investment, these counties will be forced to abandon these life- and infrastructure-saving projects.

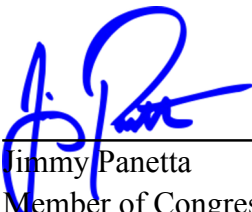
Moreover, pre-disaster mitigation and up-front investment saves taxpayer dollars. For every dollar spent in pre-disaster mitigation and preparedness, between \$6 and \$13 is saved in damages, cleanup costs, and economic impact. We support the Agency's goal of reducing the amount of federal dollars spent on disaster recovery and believe the BRIC program helps to achieve future cost reductions. Ending the BRIC Program will result in higher costs for Americans, especially as natural disasters become more frequent and severe.

Consequently, we respectfully request responses to the following questions by June 13, 2025:

1. How many projects in California will be impacted by this decision?
2. What is FEMA's timeline and process for cancelling this funding?
3. In a memo, Director Hamilton noted that not all projects will be impacted if they have already commenced. What stage of project completion will allow recipients to continue to receive funding?
4. Former Director Hamilton also noted that FEMA will create a new, similar program. What are the details and timelines for the rollout of this program?

The BRIC Program allows the State of California and its many communities to shift away from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience. We urge you to immediately reverse this decision and do all you can to support the work of this vital program.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



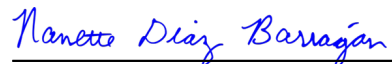
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



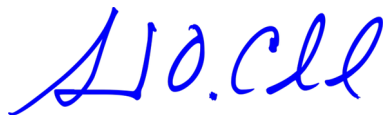
Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



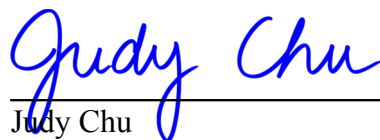
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



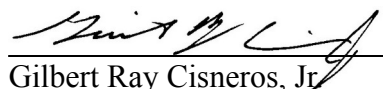
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



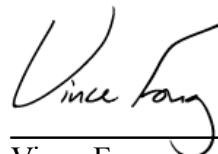
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



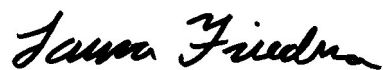
Jim Costa
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Vince Fong
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Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



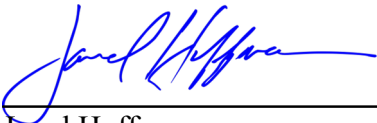
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



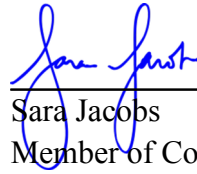
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Sydney Kamlager Dove
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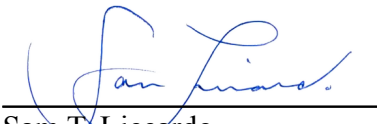
Ro Khanna
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Young Kim
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Mike Levin
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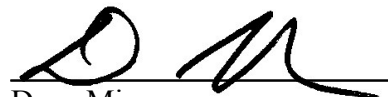
Sam T. Liccardo
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Ted W. Lieu
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Zoe Lofgren
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Dave Min
Member of Congress



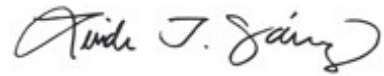
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



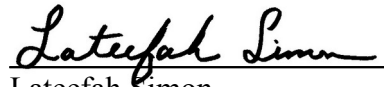
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
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