



June 8, 2026

Dear Members of the FEMA Review Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Final Report of the President's Council to Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA Review Council).

IAEM-USA appreciates the Council's efforts to engage professional emergency managers throughout its review process. We support the Council's recognition of the critical role FEMA and emergency managers play before, during, and after disasters and other significant incidents. While no system is perfect, periodic evaluation and improvement of life-saving programs are essential. We also agree with the Council's observation that many of its most significant recommendations will require congressional action, and we look forward to working with the Administration, Congress, and other stakeholders as those proposals are considered.

We would like to highlight one recommendation that is particularly important to maintaining the nation's emergency management capabilities. The Council correctly recognizes the value of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program and recommends a one-time funding increase to support the implementation of its recommendations. IAEM-USA strongly agrees that EMPG is essential to sustaining the all-hazards capabilities that protect communities nationwide.

With origins that predate FEMA itself, EMPG remains the cornerstone of the nation's emergency management system. It is the only all-hazards preparedness grant program and is particularly critical to supporting emergency management programs in smaller and rural communities. As the Council notes, emergency management is a shared responsibility. EMPG uniquely reflects that principle through its statutory 50 percent non-federal cost-share requirement (6 U.S.C. § 762(c)), which ensures meaningful state and local investment alongside federal support.

**Accordingly, IAEM-USA urges the Administration and Congress not only to support the Council's recommendation to increase EMPG funding but also to reaffirm their long-term commitment to EMPG as the foundational federal investment in state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency management capabilities.** As policymakers consider reforms to the nation's emergency management system, they should ensure that EMPG remains a robust, dedicated, and adequately funded program that enables communities of all sizes to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate disasters.

We also encourage policymakers to engage local emergency managers as these recommendations are evaluated and implemented. Practitioners who protect their communities every day can offer valuable insight into the real-world impacts of proposed changes and into the critical role EMPG plays in sustaining preparedness nationwide.

Disasters will continue to challenge communities across the nation. America's emergency managers stand ready, alongside our public, private, nonprofit, and government partners, to provide critical support when it is needed most. As the Administration and Congress consider the Council's recommendations, IAEM-USA strongly encourages them to preserve and strengthen EMPG as a central pillar of our national preparedness framework. We believe continuous improvement of the emergency management system is both possible and necessary, and we welcome the opportunity to contribute to future discussions about the Council's Final Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Morton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Josh Morton, SCCEM, CEM  
IAEM-USA President