

Congress of the United States

October 16, 2020

The Honorable Peter Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

We write you today in full support of the State of Oregon's request for Public Assistance Categories C through G as part of its Major Disaster declaration for wildfires and straight-line winds issued on Sept. 15, 2020 (DR-4562-OR). As you have learned from our ongoing correspondence and your visit to Oregon earlier this month, the Oregon Congressional Delegation is committed to working together to ensure the maximum Federal resources are available to assist Oregonians recovering from this disaster. Providing additional assistance to conduct permanent repair work of public infrastructure damaged in this disaster is the next necessary step to a full recovery.

As you witnessed on your visit to Oregon, these fires indiscriminately torched everything in their path leaving scenes of carnage and destruction in their wake. Public infrastructure was no exception. School buildings, city halls, roads and bridges, and public utilities have all been badly damaged. Thanks to the determined and indefatigable work of Oregon's local government and utility providers, many services have already been temporarily restored as work is underway to permanently replace and harden damaged infrastructure.

Oregon's Office of Emergency Management predicts that this disaster has caused more than \$1 billion in damage. The State of Oregon and local governments simply do not have adequate resources to finance the needed repair and replacement work. FEMA's assistance for public infrastructure will help these projects move forward quickly and allow an easier and faster return to normalcy for fire-damaged communities.

We greatly appreciate FEMA's ongoing attentiveness and support for Oregon's recovery. Quickly approving Oregon's Major Disaster Declaration, approving debris removal, and authorizing a Temporary Housing Mission in parts of the state have been important steps forward. In addition to making this request, we remind you that Oregon's request for an increased Federal cost share remains unanswered and, at the time of this writing, several counties are pending approval for a Temporary Housing Mission. We look forward to your response to this request and our pending requests as well.

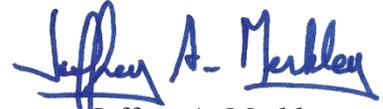
Sincerely,



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress