



**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington DC 20515**

**Peter A. DeFazio**  
Chairman

Katherine W. Dedrick  
Staff Director

**Sam Graves**  
Ranking Member

Paul J. Sass  
Republican Staff Director

November 6, 2020

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

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

I write to reiterate my strong support for the State of Oregon's request for a direct housing mission in Lane County as part of its Major Disaster declaration granted by the President for wildfires and straight-line winds issued on Sept. 15, 2020 (DR-4562-OR). It has been more than a month since Oregon's congressional delegation wrote you in support of the State's initial request for a direct housing mission for wildfire-ravaged counties. While I am glad that FEMA has already approved such assistance for several counties, the request for Lane remains pending and the need is just as acute today as it was a month ago when you visited Oregon.

The Holiday Farm Fire destroyed 579 housing units and impacted Lane County residents continue living in motels, with friends and family, or in other temporary shelter, awaiting a more stable housing arrangement. FEMA's continued delay in approving a temporary housing mission further victimizes those who have already lost everything by extending the trauma wrought by these devastating fires.

As you saw in your visit, Oregonians are tough and resilient. We are not asking for a handout but simply asking FEMA to provide the same benefits to disaster survivors as it does throughout the rest of the country, including areas of our own State impacted as part of the same series of wildfires. While we understand that the circumstances in Blue River and surrounding communities may be challenging to meet, the test of leadership is the ability to do the right thing in a challenging environment. I have confidence that FEMA is capable of rising to the challenges it faces in this response and it will have the full support of our community, the State, and my office.

When the entire Oregon delegation sent its earlier letter of support to you, we wrote, "With the holiday season fast approaching, it is more important than ever that displaced Oregonians be afforded some return to normalcy." The holiday season is now upon us with Thanksgiving fewer than three weeks away, and the return to normalcy unfortunately feels further away now than it did a month ago. FEMA has been able to approve a direct housing mission to three Oregon counties so

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far, with no action in Lane County. It is beyond time for FEMA to approve the State's request for this assistance in Lane County.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Peter A. DeFazio  
Chairman

cc:

Michael O'Hare, FEMA Regional Administrator, Region X  
Dolph Diemont, FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer, DR-4562-OR