

Congress of the United States

October 3, 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 a Temporary Housing Mission as part of its Major Disaster declaration for wildfires and straight-line winds issued on Sept. 15, 2020 (DR-4562-OR). Last month we wrote to you urging FEMA "to quickly deliver the widest possible range of transitional housing units to the areas of Oregon impacted by the ongoing wildfires." The state is now requesting direct housing assistance, including trailers and manufactured housing units, for Jackson, Douglas, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, and Marion counties. These resources are critical, given the scarcity of hotel and motel vacancies, and they would help the state respond to the housing crisis.

As you know, the massive fire disaster quickly tore through many communities and destroyed at least 3,100 residences. Thousands of Oregonians remain in temporary shelter, unable to return home and uncertain of what their future holds. We owe it to these wildfire survivors to provide stability and certainty as they begin the process of rebuilding -- we can take those first steps by providing temporary housing.

In times of disaster, people seek comfort and safety in their homes. However, with no homes to return to, thousands of Oregonians lack the opportunity to find that same solace and are instead temporarily housed in hotel rooms, lacking the personal touches of home and the ability to enjoy the taste of a home-cooked meal. With the holiday season fast approaching, it is more important than ever that displaced Oregonians be afforded some return to normalcy.

Therefore, we ask you to quickly approve the State's request for a Temporary Housing Mission which will allow FEMA to avail itself of a wide range of temporary housing options including travel trailers, manufactured housing units, direct lease, and multi-family lease and repair. While still a far cry from a return to home, these temporary solutions provide people certainty, privacy, and the ability to resume some aspects of their normal daily routine as they recover.

While Oregon's housing stock has suffered significant impact, the State's manufacturing and retail sectors are well-poised to support these efforts with a sizeable manufactured housing and recreational vehicle industrial and sales base throughout the state. Business Oregon, the State's economic development agency, stands ready and willing to connect FEMA with manufacturers and vendors who are happy to provide their services on behalf of their community. This provides a unique dual opportunity to help disaster survivors quickly recover

and bring economic development to the very communities that have been ravaged by both the wildfires disaster and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for FEMA's ongoing partnership with our offices, the State of Oregon, and our local and tribal communities. FEMA has responded quickly to many of our region's needs and we are hopeful that will continue with this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



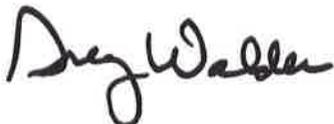
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress