

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the National League of Cities (NLC) and the 19,000 cities, towns and villages across the country, we commend your bipartisan leadership in introducing the *Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669)*. Cities are on the frontlines of disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and we value your efforts to modernize and strengthen the federal disaster management system.

We are encouraged by several provisions in the legislation that would directly improve local leaders' ability to serve their residents in times of crisis. For example:

- The creation of a Universal Disaster Application to streamline survivor assistance, reducing duplication and delays during critical recovery periods.
- Public Assistance reforms, including a shift toward a grant-based model, which would allow cities—particularly those with limited budgets—to restore vital infrastructure without carrying the burden of significant upfront costs.
- A centralized Public Assistance dashboard that provides greater transparency into project approvals, obligations, and disbursements, allowing for better local planning and accountability.
- Mitigation program reforms that modernize FEMA's hazard mitigation initiatives, helping communities proactively address vulnerabilities before the next disaster strikes.

NLC strongly supports the intent of this legislation and affirms our commitment to working with the Committee and your colleagues in Congress to ensure that the final bill strengthens the federal partnership with local governments. Ensuring that cities, towns and villages have the

tools, resources and timely support to prepare for, respond to and recover from all types of disasters is essential to the safety and resilience of communities.

We thank you again for your bipartisan leadership and look forward to continuing to collaborate on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Clarence E. Anthony  
CEO and Executive Director