

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Chairwoman  
The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Ranking Member  
House Homeland Security Appropriation Subcommittee H-307, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

Thank you for the Subcommittee on Homeland Security's inclusion of Community Project Funding for the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill. We write to urge you to fully fund this portion of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for FY23.

For several years, we have urged funding for PDM at a sustained and meaningful level to enable the program to fund substantial and necessary mitigation projects. When the *Disaster Recovery Reform Act* (Div. D of P.L. 115-254) was enacted in 2018, Congress ensured the PDM program would receive a more stable stream of funding for a new nationally-competitive PDM grant program based on a calculation of eligible disaster relief and recovery spending. The first grant application cycle for the new PDM program, *Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities* (BRIC), closed 2021 and FEMA reported that there were nearly one thousand applications totaling more than \$3.6 billion dollars, with only \$500 million dollars available for the grant cycle. Additional funding for this program is especially timely given the clear demand, and we commend the Subcommittee for selecting this program for Community Project Funding above and beyond what is provided by the PDM set-aside based on expenditures from FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund.

According to data compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States faced 22 extreme weather and climate-related disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion dollars each in 2020, resulting in cumulative costs of nearly \$100 billion dollars. Investments in mitigation save taxpayers by ultimately lessening the amount of damage resulting from these natural disasters. The National Institutes of Building Sciences (NIBS) has analyzed various types of mitigation-related investments and has consistently reported a significant return on investment. In its most recent Report, from 2019, NIBS found that mitigation in the form of adopting, using, and enforcing the latest residential and commercial building codes saved \$11 dollars in future disaster-related costs for every \$1 dollar invested. NIBS also determined that other types of mitigation investments in infrastructure - such as those funded by FEMA, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - have resulted in cost savings of \$6 dollars per \$1 invested.

Given the demonstrable cost-savings resulting from mitigation, this appropriation to supplement BRIC is a worthwhile investment of taxpayer dollars. FEMA's PDM program has distinct statutory requirements and expresses criteria ensuring that the projects eligible for grant funding reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property. This ensures that the dollars the Subcommittee will invest in this program and the projects that will be funded will drive down disaster risks and costs across the nation.

Not only does mitigation save money, it reduces injuries and saves lives by providing added protection to our communities and their residents. Mitigation projects contribute to revitalized communities and economies - people and businesses thrive in protected environments, and there are skilled jobs involved in designing and constructing these kinds of projects, as well.

While changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) might lower some flood insurance premiums, mitigation projects reduce the actual risk of flood damage, lessen future disaster costs, and lower flood insurance premiums in communities. Many of our constituents struggle to pay NFIP premiums, and pre-disaster mitigation projects, such as relocating structures out of a flood plain and flood-proofing buildings, can begin to alleviate some of these issues.


Thank you again for your commitment to Community Project Funding for FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program and considering our request to fund it at a level that allows for additional meaningful mitigation projects to be funded across the nation.

Sincerely,

*André Carson*

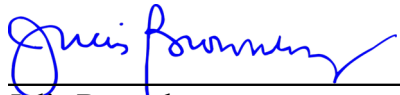
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Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
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Julia Brownley  
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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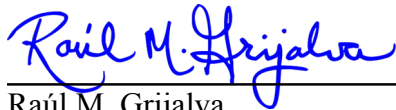
Mark DeSaulnier  
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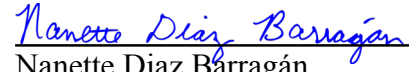
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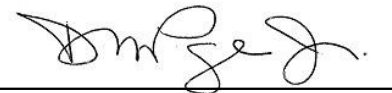
Raúl M. Grijalva  
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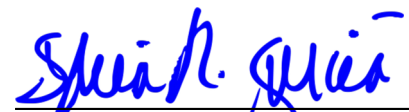
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A. Donald McEachin  
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Mike Doyle  
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Troy Carter  
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Chellie Pingree  
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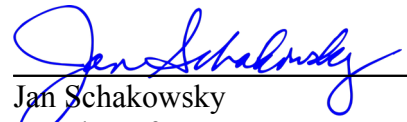
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Sablan  
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Kathleen M. Rice  
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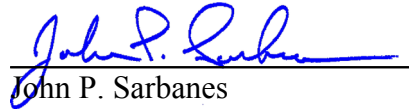


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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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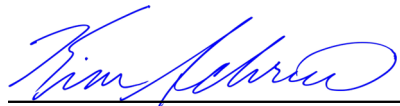
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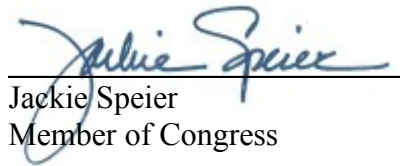
Sean Casten  
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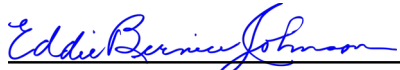
Elissa Slotkin  
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Jackie Speier  
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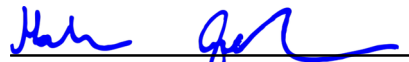
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
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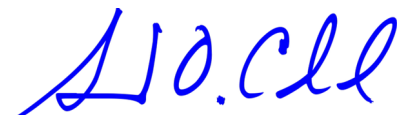
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
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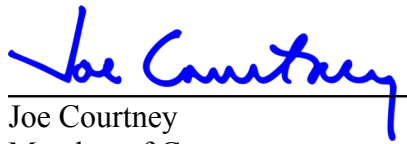
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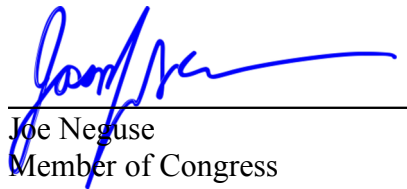
Karen Bass  
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Angie Craig  
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Adam Smith  
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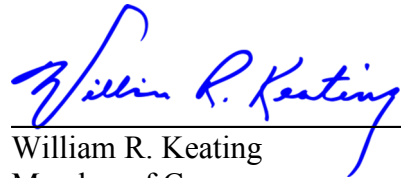
Joe Neguse  
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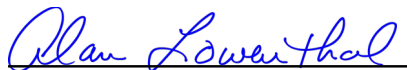
Colin Z. Allred  
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Chris Pappas  
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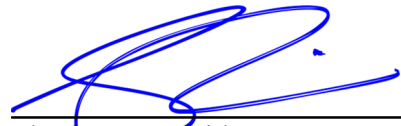
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



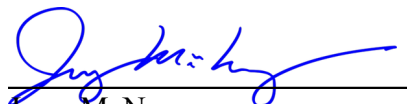
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Diana DeGette  
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Sharice L. Davids  
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Jerry McNerney  
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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



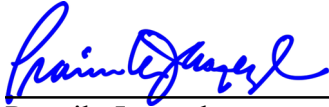
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



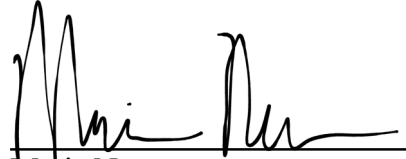
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



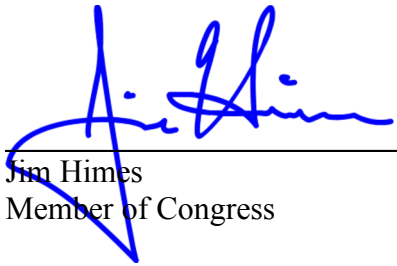
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Gregory W. Meeks  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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Jim Himes  
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