

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chair Murray, and Vice Chair Collins:

As representatives of disaster-impacted states, we write to request that adequate funding for recovery be included in any short-term continuing resolution that Congress acts on by the end of September.

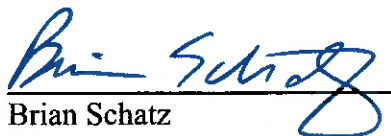
While it is still not finished—and hurricane season is far from over—this year has been tragic for our states. Major disasters have been declared in 30 states and territories this year and many more have been declared in recent years. In Mississippi, tornadoes tragically killed more than 20 people. In California, months of extreme rain led to more than 20 fatalities and billions of dollars in damage. Floods and severe storms also swept through Alaska, Vermont, New York, Colorado, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, leaving behind some of the worst damage Vermont has seen in memory. Snow storms devastated North and South Dakota, with spring flooding inundating communities and decimating the agricultural sector. Typhoon Mawar—the first Pacific typhoon of the season and the strongest tropical cyclone of the year thus far—impacted Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Hurricane Idalia caused significant damage to farms, small businesses, and homes in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. And finally, fires on Maui in Hawaii killed an estimated 97 people and largely destroyed the historic town of Lahaina, leaving thousands displaced and faced with rebuilding in one of the most expensive communities in the country.

The list of tragic incidents in no way capture the depth of loss that they have caused our constituents. Nevertheless, first responders have run toward danger to save lives, local organizations have provided billions of dollars in assistance, and neighbors have stepped up to help one another. Our communities have done all they can under difficult circumstances and now the federal government must provide additional support.

Our governors have requested and received major disaster declarations, this year or previously, and federal relief is well underway, coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Stafford Act. We are grateful for the federal aid received thus far, but in order to continue federally-supported recovery operations, Congress must act to provide supplemental funding to a number of key departments and agencies to activate or continue recovery programs for our communities. These departments and agencies include, but are not limited to, FEMA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Transportation, the Economic Development Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Treasury, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Thank you for working with us to provide critical relief to our states.

Sincerely,



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



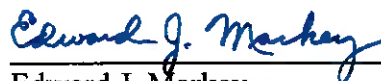
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



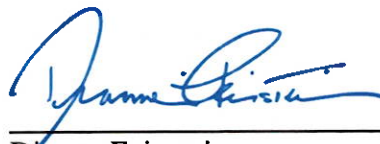
M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator