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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0307

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

I am writing to urge you to extend the grant application deadlines for Federal Emergency Management Agency Fiscal Year 2020 Preparedness Grants.


On January 31, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a public health emergency under the Public Health Service Act. In the last week, the World Health Organization (WHO) has classified the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic and President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation declaring a "National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak." We are now in the midst of an all-of-government response to the COVID-19 outbreak. In order to protect public health and safety, there must be no distractions.

As you know, FEMA Preparedness Grants will allocate almost \$1.8 billion to our state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as private and nonprofit organizations, this year. These funds are essential for mitigation, protection, prevention, response, and recovery from emergencies, major disasters, and terrorist attacks. However, these entities are currently working to protect their communities from the effects of COVID-19 and have limited resources to expend on other initiatives.

The first Preparedness Grant application closes on Friday, March 20, 2020, with additional deadlines occurring until Friday, May 1, 2020. Requiring our state, local, tribal, and other partners to choose between helping their communities today and having the tools they need for tomorrow would be a mistake. Thankfully, it is a mistake we can avoid. It is imperative that all grant application periods receive extensions to account for the unprecedented emergency facing our nation.

I respectfully request your swift consideration and approval of this request. Please contact Anthony Papian with Senator Sinema at (202) 224-9326 or Anthony_Papian@hsgac.senate.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyrsten Si-", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. The signature is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema