

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2020

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

We write in support of the State of Oregon's recent request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assume 100% cost share for debris removal and emergency protective measures related to this year's unprecedented wildfires.

As you saw when you toured the state with us earlier this year, wildfires have utterly decimated communities across Oregon. Governor Kate Brown and Oregon Emergency Management predict that total disaster costs will ultimately total more than \$1 billion—a burden the state will be unable to shoulder in light of ongoing pandemic-related responses.

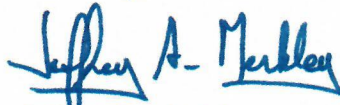
We have written you previously in support of a greater cost share and continue to believe it is warranted by the data and by FEMA's past actions in similar disasters. The damage assessment from the 2020 fire season now exceeds the \$149 per capita of Oregon's population, the regulatory threshold for FEMA to support an increased federal cost share. FEMA has authorized 90% cost share in more than 20 disasters since January 2017, including wildfires, and 100% cost share in 22 disasters during the same period. Indeed, the administration recently amended the Major Disaster Declaration for California to authorize 100% percent cost share for debris removal and emergency protective measures.

We greatly appreciate FEMA's prompt responses to the Governor Brown's requests, and ours, for a Major Disaster Declaration for Oregon and for FEMA personnel and resources to flow to the state. We thank you for coming to the state at our request to tour the wreckage. We also note that Oregon's repeated requests for increased federal cost share have, as yet, gone unanswered. Oregon has now made a similar request to the one recently approved for California and we respectfully urge you to approve this request without delay.

Sincerely,



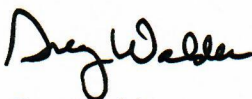
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



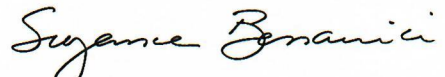
Greg Walden
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress