



March 25, 2010

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman, Chairman
The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

We wish to express our strong support for H.R. 4899 which includes the \$5.1 billion in supplemental funds requested by the President for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF).

As the Presidents of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and the USA Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) we represent the state emergency managers of all 50 states, territories, District of Columbia, and the Nation's local emergency managers.

It is our understanding that the \$5.1 billion in supplemental funds requested by the Administration for the DRF is intended to close-out all outstanding claims from Hurricane Katrina and the balance of Fiscal Year 2010. While we appreciate the resource strained economic environment, these funds remain critical to effective disaster response and recovery of our communities.

As of February 4, FEMA announced a delay in public assistance funding for declared disasters in order to conserve funds for immediate needs for individuals, debris removal, and emergency protective measures. Now there is great concern funding for even immediate needs will not be available. We urge quick action on this supplemental request to prevent a lapse in disaster relief assistance. Please contact our respective representatives in Washington, D.C. should you require additional information from either of our organizations. IAEM Policy Advisor Martha Braddock can be contacted at 703-644-7082 and NEMA Director of Government Relations Matt Cowles can be reached at 202-624-5459.

Sincerely,

David Maxwell
NEMA President

Pamela L'Heureux, CEM
IAEM-USA President

cc: The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chairwoman
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Disaster Recovery Subcommittee
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Disaster Recovery Subcommittee