

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

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor,

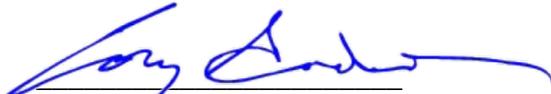
We write today to request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) begin covering 100 percent of approved costs incurred by the State of Colorado and its city, county, and municipal governments, along with the state's two federally recognized tribes due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

As you know, President Trump invoked Sec. 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("the Stafford Act") for the State of Colorado on March 13, 2020. This allowed governments at all levels in the state and tribes to access federal funds through the FEMA Public Assistance program to reimburse costs incurred due to the emergency, with the Federal government assuming 75 percent of the share. However, as the pandemic continues to ravage our communities, even that much of the federal share is proving insufficient to cover costs.

Local governments at the city, county, and municipal level, and Colorado's two federally recognized tribes are faced with unanticipated revenue shortfalls on top of unprecedented expenses. As a result, many of them are facing significant financial strain, particularly in light of balanced budget requirements. There have been several cases where the Federal government has adjusted its share of recovery costs above the minimum 75 percent. Additionally, FEMA is authorized to provide 100 percent of the share of these costs "if warranted by the needs of a disaster" (44 CFR§ 206.47(d)), a criteria the current pandemic seems to meet. For these reasons, it is imperative that FEMA increase its share of the approved costs associated with COVID-19 to 100 percent so that these governments and tribes are able to function during this national disaster and in the immediate aftermath.

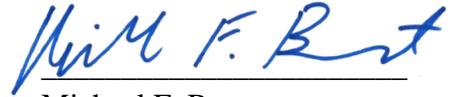
Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you and other Federal, state, and local agencies to continue addressing this global pandemic.

Sincerely,



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Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



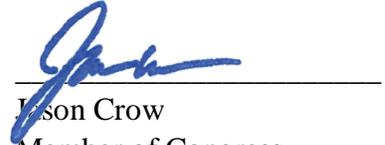
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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress