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06TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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NATURAL RESOURCES

INDIAN & INSULAR AFFAIRS
FEDERAL LANDS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT &
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Acting Administrator Robert Fenton,

I'm writing to you with deep concern and urgency regarding my letters from April 16, 2025, and January 22, 2026, on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 's decisions to terminate the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and to express new concerns over delayed and reduced funding.

FEMA recently notified the City of Hoquiam and the City of Aberdeen that the wrongly terminated FEMA BRIC funding for the North Shore Levee project will be soon dispersed. While that is good news that is long overdue, the grant total has been decreased. Specifically, FEMA Region X approved their request at \$47 million, but headquarters denied that amount and replaced it with \$34.65 million of grant funding. To make matters worse, FEMA intends to disburse funds until September 2026, one year later than FEMA previously committed. This community has waited long enough.

This is unacceptable and it is dangerous. It is equally concerning to see a new published report by Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management and his staff of July 2026 where it details FEMA, instructed by the Department of Homeland Security, diverted agency resources for immigration enforcement and not for its intended purpose of our country's disaster readiness.

In Hoquiam, the levee project would reduce the risks from a 500-year flood for approximately 2,000 properties, 360 businesses, and critical infrastructure --including schools, the city hall, the police department, fire station, and social security office. As FEMA noted in December 2024, the City's existing levee is compromised, and "the levee's integrity has been substantially diminished and degraded by severe flood events over the past 85 years and it no longer protects Hoquiam from river flooding. With sea level rise, flooding is expected to increase in depth, frequency, and duration."¹

Neighbors in Hoquiam and Aberdeen have been working on this crucial levee project for almost a decade. By halting preventative infrastructure, FEMA is increasing long-term disaster response costs while simultaneously reducing the tax base needed to fund them. The delayed and partial loss of funding previously awarded to this project places rural communities in economic stasis and deprives the federal government of returns it would otherwise realize.

Accordingly, I request full consideration and responses to the following oversight matters by July 31st, 2026, if not sooner:

1. An updated timeline on the disbursement of the FEMA BRIC funding for the North Shore Levee Project;
2. A recommitment by FEMA to immediately unfreeze and disburse the money originally approved by FEMA Region X for the City of Hoquiam and the City of Aberdeen;
3. A third request meet with me to discuss how FEMA intends to prevent further economic harm in Washington's 6th District.

Deep uncertainty has been caused by your agency to my neighbors of my district. To be clear: the cancellation of BRIC is not promoting government efficiency by any measure or definition.

In service of the hardworking people of Washington's 6th district,



Congresswoman Emily Randall
Washington's 6th District

CC: Vincent J. Maykovich. Acting Regional Administrator, FEMA Region X Office;
Markwayne Mullin, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.