

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 10, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

According to public reporting, you altered a draft report produced by the Council to Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which was established at the direction of President Trump.¹ The Council is set to release its findings on December 11, 2025.² I urge you to release the Council's complete report.

The Council to Assess FEMA—which is comprised of governors, mayors, community leaders, and Republican party officials—was charged by President Trump with assessing potential reforms to FEMA.³ The Council submitted its 160-page draft report in November, reflecting nearly 13,000 public comments and a dozen meetings with communities across the country.⁴ The report contained reforms to improve FEMA's disaster response, including distributing assistance to states more quickly.⁵

Public reporting indicates that upon receiving the Council's report, you and your top adviser, Corey Lewandowski, whittled the recommendations down, eliminating roughly 140 pages of the Council's work.⁶ White House officials reportedly also received the draft report.⁷ Members of the

¹ See Exec. Order No. 14180, 90 Fed. Reg. 8743 (Jan 24, 2025).

² See 90 Fed. Reg. 54360 (Nov. 26, 2025).

³ See *President Trump Appoints New Members to Federal Emergency Management Agency Review Council*, DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/04/28/president-trump-appoints-new-members-federal-emergency-management-agency-review>.

⁴ See Gabriela Aoun Angueira, *Trump Administration Makes Major Changes to a Report it Commissioned on FEMA Reforms, AP Sources Say*, Associated Press (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/fema-review-council-kristi-noem-trump-disasters-22274e65fad13b9e3005e302bcce9cbb>.

⁵ See Maxine Joselow and Scott Dance, *Trump Wanted to Abolish FEMA. His Own Advisers Disagree*, NEW YORK TIMES (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/19/climate/fema-review-council-report-trump.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>.

⁶ See Brianna Sacks and Isaac Arnsdorf, *Noem at Odds with Trump-Appointed Panel Over Future of FEMA*, Washington Post (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/11/19/noem-odds-with-trump-appointed-panel-over-future-fema/>.

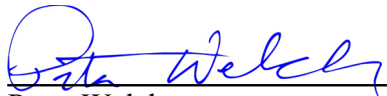
⁷ *Id.*

Council, appointed by President Trump,⁸ have raised concerns about your decision to alter the report.⁹

I categorically oppose any efforts to eliminate FEMA. I do energetically support reforms to streamline the disaster relief process. It is too burdensome for many small towns, particularly in rural areas.

Whether or not you agree with all of the Council's conclusions or recommendations, it is essential their complete findings be released without alteration or selective changes. This welcomes a robust discussion of the best reforms to improve FEMA. I urge you to release the Council's complete findings to the public immediately.

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
United States Senator

cc: Hon. Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense
Hon. Greg Abbott, Governor, State of Texas
Hon. Phil Bryant, Former Governor, State of Mississippi
Hon. Jane Castor, Mayor, City of Tampa, Florida
Mark Cooper, Former Chief of Staff, Governor John Bel Edwards
Rosie Codero-Stutz, Sheriff, Miami-Dade County
Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management
W. Nim Kidd, Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management
Michael Whatley, Chairman, Republican National Committee
Hon. Glenn Youngkin, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
Robert J. Fenton, Jr., Region 9 Administrator and Former Acting Administrator

⁸ See *President Trump Appoints New Members to Federal Emergency Management Agency Review Council*, DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/04/28/president-trump-appoints-new-members-federal-emergency-management-agency-review>.

⁹ See Sacks and Arnsdorf, *supra* note 6; Angueira, *supra* note 4.