

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20510**

February 2, 2022

Deanne Criswell  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell:

We write in strong support of the State of Colorado's forthcoming request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approve Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) for the Marshall Fire disaster (DR-4634, Colorado Wildfires and Straight-line Winds). We also ask that FEMA approve funds for the removal of home foundations and the State's subsequent request to the President for 100 percent cost share from FEMA for the PPDR program.

FEMA and other federal agency partners have provided essential assistance to help Colorado communities respond to and recover from this disaster. The Marshall Fire was the most destructive event in Colorado's history, causing over \$680 million in damage. The fire destroyed 1,084 homes and destroyed or damaged dozens of businesses and public facilities. Two people are dead or presumed dead because of the fire.

As we transition to the long-term recovery, debris removal is the most urgent priority for rebuilding. The State of Colorado (the State), Boulder County, the City of Louisville, and the Town of Superior are collaborating on a debris-removal effort in order to minimize individual costs to survivors and provide for expeditious debris removal that conforms to public health and safety standards.

State and local officials have determined that the debris from the destroyed homes is an immediate threat to public health and safety, and to the economic recovery of the community at large. This week, the State intends to request that FEMA approve PPDR to assist with debris-removal efforts, including additional assistance to remove fire-damaged concrete foundations. Unlike in other disasters such as tornados, where foundations may be reused, the intense heat of the conflagration rendered the foundations unusable for rebuilding. This request is vital to begin rebuilding as soon as possible for the community's broader economic recovery.

Also necessary for the communities' economic recovery is additional federal assistance. As small communities, with large percentages of their residential housing stock destroyed, an increase in the federal cost share for the program from 75 percent to 100 percent is critical.

Because of the staggering scale of the destruction from the Marshall Fire and the vast amount of resources required for the community to recover, we believe that these requests are entirely warranted. We urge your swift consideration and approval of the PPDR with the foundation removal request. We also ask that you support the state's subsequent request for cost sharing assistance

Thank you for your consideration and continued support. We continue to stand ready to assist as we work toward full recovery.

Sincerely,



United States Senator  
Michael F. Bennet



United States Senator  
John Hickenlooper



Member of Congress  
Joe Neguse