



January 15, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Supporting Strict Conditions on Federal Disaster Relief Funding for California

Dear Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Thune,

In the wake of the devastating fires in Los Angeles, the House and Senate will be asked to consider legislation to provide federal disaster funding to California. While we all support federal funding to respond to disasters, it is also equally important to hold state and local officials accountable.

It is abundantly clear that California's insane laws and regulations hampered our ability to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to this fire emergency. Worse, it is clear that state and local officials were grossly negligent in their management of these fires.

As an elected California state legislator, I enthusiastically welcome Speaker Johnson's comments recognizing these problems and voicing his support for placing conditions on any federal aid to California to ensure our state improves its ability to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to emergencies.

Unfortunately, California politicians and the liberal media have misrepresented the conditions raised by Speaker Johnson. Nonetheless, I ask that you do not back down from imposing conditions on the federal relief package.

As conditions are considered for the federal relief package, I ask that you consider demanding California state and local officials be held accountable for making the following improvement:

1. **Brush Management:** Fund and execute brush removal on public lands managed by state and local government agencies, improve forest management practices, and eliminate regulations that prevent private property owners from creating defensible space
2. **Water Management:** Ensure adequate supplies of water for emergencies

3. **Insurance Reform:** Eliminate regulations that prevent the financial solvency of the insurance market – and work with the insurance industry to focus programs to reduce risk on areas that would encourage them to offer affordable coverage
4. **Utility Management:** Ensure that power utilities are properly managed during emergencies – cutting power when necessary
5. **Firefighter Staffing:** Achieve and maintain adequate staffing, eliminate woke programs that discourage recruitment and retention of qualified firefighters, and solve your homelessness crisis so firefighters aren't overwhelmed by these problems

I cannot stress the importance of placing these kinds of conditions on federal aid. Without these conditions, California politicians will not be held accountable to fix their failed policies and improve their management of these issues. Indeed, by imposing these common-sense conditions, the federal government can use its leverage to force change in California – with the result being saving lives and protecting communities.

I know millions of Californians join me in welcoming the federal government holding our failing state politicians accountable for better handling of these issues.

My office stands ready to assist you in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Carl DeMaio

CA State Assemblymember - District 75

cc:

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa, Representative, CA District 1
The Honorable Kevin Kiley, Representative, CA District 3
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Representative, CA District 5
The Honorable Vince Fong, Representative, CA District 20
The Honorable David Valadao, Representative, CA District 22
The Honorable Jay Obernolte, Representative, CA District 23
The Honorable Young Kim, Representative, CA District 40
The Honorable Ken Calvert, Representative, CA District 41
The Honorable Darrell Issa, Representative, CA District 48