

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 5, 2018

The Honorable Brock Long  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St. SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Long:

We respectfully write regarding your use of agency resources for personal travel during your tenure at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (DHS OIG) reported that you used government-owned vehicles with assigned drivers to commute to and from your residences in the National Capital Region and North Carolina.<sup>1</sup> The DHS OIG estimates that this unauthorized home to work (HTW) travel cost the federal government at least \$151,000 in drivers' salaries, travel expenditures, and vehicle operations and maintenance costs.<sup>2</sup>

We understand that you and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen have agreed to take corrective action to address the findings of the DHS OIG investigation, including the possible repayment of some portion of the expenses you incurred.<sup>3</sup> You have stated that the unauthorized HTW travel was necessary to meet the requirements of Presidential Policy Directive 40 (PPD-40), which concerns the ability of federal agencies to continue performing essential functions in the aftermath of a catastrophic event.<sup>4</sup>

To better understand your use of unauthorized HTW travel and any corrective action you have taken or plan to take in response to the DHS OIG investigation, we ask that you provide the following information:

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, *Report of Investigation* (I18-FEMA-SID-06980) (Sept. 2018).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *FEMA Chief to Reimburse Government for Personal Use of Federal Vehicles*, Politico (Sept. 21, 2018) ([www.politico.com/story/2018/09/21/fema-brock-long-vehicles-reimbursement-ig-inspector-general-report-836410](http://www.politico.com/story/2018/09/21/fema-brock-long-vehicles-reimbursement-ig-inspector-general-report-836410)).

<sup>4</sup> *Transcript: FEMA Administrator Brock Long on "Face the Nation," September 16, 2018*, CBS News (Sept. 16, 2018) ([www.cbsnews.com/news/transcript-fema-administrator-brock-long-on-face-the-nation-september-16-2018/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/transcript-fema-administrator-brock-long-on-face-the-nation-september-16-2018/)).

- 1) What is FEMA's current policy regarding HTW travel for the FEMA Administrator and for all FEMA employees?
- 2) Please describe any corrective action FEMA has taken to address the findings of the DHS OIG investigation.
- 3) Have you repaid or do you plan to repay the federal government for expenses incurred as a result of your HTW travel? If so, how much have you repaid or do you plan to repay, and when did you or do you expect to do so?
- 4) Have you or any FEMA staff utilized HTW travel since your agreement with Secretary Nielsen? If so, please describe.
- 5) What is your understanding of the requirements of PPD-40 with regard to non-official use of government-owned vehicles by the FEMA Administrator? Please provide documentation of FEMA's interpretation and implementation of these PPD-40 requirements.
- 6) According to public reporting, prior FEMA administrators used government-owned vehicles related to PPD-40 or previous presidential directives.<sup>5</sup> Please describe how FEMA has historically provided the Administrator with the use of a government-owned vehicle for purposes of secure transportation and communication during official and unofficial travel.

Please provide this information as soon as possible but in no event later than 5:00 p.m. on October 26, 2018.

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized by Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to investigate "the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government."<sup>6</sup> Additionally, S. Res. 62 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress) authorizes the Committee to examine "the efficiency and economy of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, collusion, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption, or unethical practices...."<sup>7</sup>

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Michael Lueptow of Chairman Johnson's staff at (202) 224-4751, Joel Walsh of Ranking Member McCaskill's staff

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<sup>5</sup> *As Florence Arrives, FEMA and its Administrator Face Mounting Scrutiny*, The Washington Post (Sept. 13, 2018), ([www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/fema-administrator-brock-long-faces-watchdog-investigation-over-personal-travel/2018/09/13/74785a3a-b773-11e8-a2c5-3187f427e253\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.1b2a8db987cd](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/fema-administrator-brock-long-faces-watchdog-investigation-over-personal-travel/2018/09/13/74785a3a-b773-11e8-a2c5-3187f427e253_story.html?utm_term=.1b2a8db987cd)).


<sup>6</sup> S. Rule XXV(k); see also S. Res. 445, 108<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2004).

<sup>7</sup> S. Res. 62 § 12, 115<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2017).

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at (202) 224-2627, Jesse Mahan with Chairman Lankford's office at (202) 224-5754, Jared Lennon with Ranking Member Heitkamp's office at (202) 224-2210, and Alexa Noruk with Ranking Member Peters' office at (202) 224-5633. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
Chairman



Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member



James Lankford  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs  
and Federal Management



Heidi Heitkamp  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs  
and Federal Management



Gary C. Peters  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Federal Spending  
Oversight and Emergency Management