

Hamilton HSGAC Written Testimony

Chairman Paul, Ranking Member Peters, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify on my nomination for Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

I want to thank my beautiful wife and amazing children who are here today and who have supported me throughout my career. I want to convey my sincere gratitude to President Donald J. Trump for the honor of a lifetime of this nomination, and to Secretary Markwayne Mullin for his confidence in me. I also want to thank Pete Gaynor and Brock Long for supporting me, and for the countless hours of wise counsel and insight they have provided me with. I am a man of faith, a husband, a father, as well as a former Navy SEAL combat veteran, and an experienced public servant at the Departments of State and Homeland Security.

I have nearly twenty years of experience in executive leadership, public service, response and recovery operations, special operations, logistics, program management, and more, spanning five presidential administrations. My career encompasses roles in national security, crisis response, government contracting, force protection, and scientific study, serving the United States Government across permissive and non-permissive environments.

I served the United States and the American people as a Navy SEAL in SEAL Team 8, specializing in developing and implementing detailed crisis response plans for chemical, biological, and radiological terrorism and related incidents. As an Emergency Management Specialist at the State Department, I led operational, emergency, and medical service support planning initiatives, applying a risk-informed and all-hazards approach to drive strategic preparedness and response. I have successfully led operations and sensitive activities in high-threat and critical-threat environments. At the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, I served as Director of Emergency Medical Services, overseeing standards and management for more than 4,000 EMS and First Responder personnel. Serving the country remains my honor, and the experience and skills gained over the years provide a strong foundation, empowering me to lead the nation's emergency response efforts.

I am deeply grateful for President Trump's trust in me to lead FEMA. I fully support the President's vision for reforming the role FEMA plays in disaster response, and I will restore the American people's faith in the agency and its vital mission. I am ready to tackle the many challenges facing FEMA.

If confirmed, I will ensure State, Local, Tribal, Territorial, and most importantly the American people are confident in their emergency managers and federal partners. FEMA's mission is more critical now than ever. Today's threat landscape is serious, and our adversaries are actively seeking to erode our strength both within our borders and overseas. I am thankful we have President Trump and Secretary Mullin leading the country through these challenging times and I am ready to do my part to serve this mission.

Ultimately, our country needs a Federal Emergency Management Agency that is agile, responsive, and accountable to the American people. FEMA was established to provide focused support during catastrophic disasters, yet at times it has strayed far from that core mission and evolved into an overextended federal bureaucracy attempting to manage every type of emergency. FEMA is all too often used by states, and public officials as a financial backstop for routine issues that should be handled locally.

The President has called for the agency to learn from both past failures and successes, empowering FEMA to become the most operationally capable agency in the Federal Government. This vision centers on delivering better tools, forging stronger partnerships, and cultivating a more capable and resilient workforce and nation. I stand ready and prepared to implement his vision.

We must return to our roots where disaster response is locally executed, state led and federally supported. Building state and local capacity is a critical step towards empowering jurisdictions to lead and manage. This means promoting resilience by helping communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters while reducing future risks through coordinated programs, guidance, and resources.

FEMA must also cut red tape within the agency. If confirmed, I'll revamp the agency's partnerships, improve our programs, and modernize FEMA's technology to deliver the resources communities and Americans need during their darkest days.

I understand and respect Congress' role in the reform of this agency. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to improve FEMA into a streamlined, mission-focused agency that delivers results for the American people.

My focus at FEMA will be to ensure that resources are deployed rapidly and efficiently to support Americans in their most critical moments. I will also make sure that, when Federal assistance is warranted, we deliver assistance to survivors rapidly. In emergency management, time is always the most important resource.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering your questions.