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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR  
MARGARET E. DAUM, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

September 7, 2017

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Tester:

Federal funds have begun to flow into Houston and many counties in Texas in enormous sums. To date, FEMA has provided nearly \$3 billion in emergency funding for the Hurricane Harvey response and recovery.<sup>1</sup> Ultimately, the damage from Hurricane Harvey may total between \$150 billion to \$180 billion.<sup>2</sup>

Immediate and intensive oversight efforts by Offices of Inspectors General (OIG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) are essential to protect the interests of the taxpayer and to ensure that hurricane relief funds reach the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

I write to urge the Appropriations Committee to ensure that the OIGs of agencies that receive Hurricane Harvey funding and GAO are appropriately funded. I recommend that the budgets of relevant OIGs increase proportionally to any Hurricane Harvey disaster funding the agencies receive and that GAO receive funding sufficient to perform additional oversight work related to the Hurricane Harvey response and recovery. This will enable these entities to continue their missions to conduct audits and perform investigations.

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<sup>1</sup> E-mail from FEMA Congressional Affairs to Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Staff (Sept. 6, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> *Funding battle looms as Texas sees Harvey damage at up to \$180 billion*, Reuters (Sept. 3, 2017).

Chairman John Boozman  
Ranking Member Jon Tester  
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I appreciate your consideration of this letter, and I look forward to working with you on these and other key issues within our committees' jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire McCaskill", with a stylized, cursive script.

Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member

cc: Ron Johnson  
Chairman

Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee

Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee