

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
House Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of America's Electric Cooperatives, we strongly support the FEMA Act of 2025 (H.R. 4669), and we applaud your efforts to reform and strengthen this essential tool for disaster recovery.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit electric utilities, owned and operated by the people we serve. We deliver electricity to the most rural, hardest-to-reach parts of 48 states. When a natural disaster occurs, co-ops are regularly on the front lines working to restore power in the hardest-hit areas. This work happens in the toughest of conditions – hurricanes, wildfires, ice storms, and many other types of disasters. FEMA is a critical partner in these efforts.

We've also long known that FEMA could be more effective and responsive to the needs of rural America. This legislation would accomplish that by, among other things:

- Expediting reimbursement for emergency recovery work
- Streamlining approval and execution of longer-term, permanent restoration
- Improving access to resiliency funding to mitigate against future hazards
- Reimbursing co-ops for interest on private bridge loans used in the immediate aftermath of a storm
- Reforming the disaster declaration process to better account for localized damage to rural and economically distressed areas

These common-sense reforms will help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars, and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a disaster. Thank you for taking the lead to ensure FEMA works for all Americans. We look forward to working with you to build support for this legislation as it is being considered by Congress.

Sincerely,



Jim Matheson