

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

April 18, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

I write to urge you to reverse the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) decision to end the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. This misguided action will put people's lives at risk, including Wisconsinites in rural areas who recently learned that the funding school districts were promised for their community-driven projects would be terminated.

Established during the first Trump Administration, the BRIC program supports states, local governments and Tribal Nations reduce their hazard risk through mitigation projects. Funding for this vital program helps communities properly prepare for extreme weather events and saves money for disaster recovery efforts when these events occur.

On April 4, 2025, FEMA announced that it would end the BRIC program and cancel all BRIC applications from Fiscal Years 2020 to 2023. This decision affects numerous Wisconsin school districts and surrounding communities where there are shovel ready projects, including Cuba City, Potosi, Phillips, Birchwood, Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan, Melrose-Mindoro, Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton and others. Despite the Administration's claims that the BRIC program is "more concerned with political agendas than helping Americans affected by natural disasters," this accusation could not be further from the truth when it comes to Wisconsin projects. These community-driven projects are entirely focused on disaster safety, many involving tornado safe rooms in rural schools.

This loss of promised funding poses a harmful setback for disaster mitigation in rural communities and wastes millions of dollars that communities have spent on local planning, engineering, and community outreach. I urge you to reverse FEMA's decision to end the BRIC program and provide the funding that was promised to Wisconsin school districts to complete crucial mitigation projects that will keep our communities safe.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator