

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Noem,

I am writing to urge you to immediately rescind your June 11, 2025, directive subjecting all Department of Homeland Security (DHS) obligations for any grant or contract award over \$100,000 to your personal review and approval. This Department-wide directive states that approval requests for obligations above the aforementioned threshold may take a minimum of five days to be reviewed, an unrealistic timeframe that is wholly incompatible with the exigent demands of DHS' component agencies, which includes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Your directive is another layer of bureaucracy that could impede crisis response. Recent reports indicate that FEMA "almost instantly [...] ran into bureaucratic obstacles" caused by the June 11 directive in response to the Texas floods.<sup>1</sup>

As we enter peak hurricane and wildfire season, and the likelihood of larger, concurrent regional multi-state natural disasters and extreme weather events increases, it is crucial that FEMA can operate quickly and without unnecessary bureaucratic red tape to prepare for and respond to these incidents. I am therefore urging you to immediately rescind the June 11 directive pertaining to DHS expenditures over \$100,000 and allow FEMA to function with the agility necessary for carrying out its mission on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> Gabe Cohen and Michael Williams, "FEMA's response to Texas floods slowed by Noem's cost controls," *CNN*, July 10, 2025. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/09/politics/fema-texas-flood-noem>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Kim", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andy Kim  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs