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**United States Senate**  
COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 17, 2025

Mr. Jamieson Greer  
U.S. Office of Special Counsel  
1730 M St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Acting Special Counsel Greer,

We write in support of an investigation into potential unlawful retaliation against the civil servants of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) who signed their names to the Katrina Declaration and Petition to Congress, which was sent to Members of Congress and the FEMA Review Council on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.<sup>1</sup> The letter warns that the Trump Administration has severely impacted FEMA's ability to respond to natural disasters.

Press reports indicate that within one day of the letter's transmission on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, the signatories who affixed their names to the document received an email from the Office of the Administrator notifying them that they were being placed on administrative leave, effective immediately.<sup>2</sup> According to reporting, among the employees placed on leave were some who were working in Kerr County, Texas, responding to the devastating July floods that resulted in at least 135 fatalities.<sup>3</sup> Subsequent details indicate that FEMA personnel who openly signed their names are being pressured to reveal the identities of the anonymous signers and are being threatened with termination if they fail to cooperate.<sup>4</sup>

Federal whistleblowers play a vital role in exposing governmental inefficiencies, waste, fraud, and abuse. As a result, they are afforded numerous protections under the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989, as amended by the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012. The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is responsible for investigating violations of that Act.

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<sup>1</sup> Katrina Declaration and Petition to Congress (August 25, 2025) ([www.standupforscience.net/fema-katrina-declaration](http://www.standupforscience.net/fema-katrina-declaration)); *FEMA Employees Warn That Trump Is Gutting Disaster Response*, The New York Times (August 25, 2025) ([www.nytimes.com/2025/08/25/climate/fema-employees-letter-trump-katrina.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/25/climate/fema-employees-letter-trump-katrina.html))

<sup>2</sup> *FEMA Suspends Staff Who Signed a Letter Criticizing Trump*, The New York Times (August 26, 2025) ([www.nytimes.com/2025/08/26/climate/fema-suspends-staff-who-criticized-trump-cuts.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/26/climate/fema-suspends-staff-who-criticized-trump-cuts.html)); *FEMA employees put on leave after criticizing Trump administration in open letter*, The Washington Post (August 27, 2025) ([www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2025/08/26/fema-employees-leave-trump-administration-letter/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2025/08/26/fema-employees-leave-trump-administration-letter/))

<sup>3</sup> *FEMA employees placed on leave after criticizing the Trump administration in open letter*, NBC News, (August 27, 2025) ([www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/fema-employees-fired-criticizing-trump-administration-open-letter-rcna227509](http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/fema-employees-fired-criticizing-trump-administration-open-letter-rcna227509))

<sup>4</sup> *FEMA Tells Staff to Name Whistleblowers or Risk Losing Jobs*, Bloomberg (October 9, 2025) ([www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-09/fema-investigates-staff-who-signed-whistleblowing-letter-criticizing-trump-cuts](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-09/fema-investigates-staff-who-signed-whistleblowing-letter-criticizing-trump-cuts).)

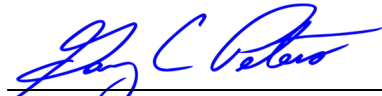
The Katrina Declaration and Petition to Congress is a protected disclosure under federal law, and we request a swift investigation into any potential unlawful retaliation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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



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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs