

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2022

Administrator Deanne Criswell
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell:

We write to urge your administrative approval of Governor Dunleavy's request to waive the State's cost share for federal individual and public assistance for recovery efforts in Western Alaska following the onslaught of Typhoon Merbok.

As your Region X team is aware, conditions prior to the storm in impacted rural communities were already difficult. Several Alaskan communities do not have running water or sewer systems. Where they do exist, it is common for sewer systems to be constructed above ground which further exposes flooded communities to the potential release of raw sewage. These communities are also experiencing high levels of unemployment and poverty, and it is likely that many homes are not insured against the losses experienced. Additionally, the cost of providing immediate temporary housing will impede the finances available for housing construction.

Necessary cleanup efforts have begun, and Alaskan efforts and spirit in the face of trials is herculean as ever. However, this cost is too great to cover with currently available resources.

Preliminary assessments across more than a thousand miles of Western Alaska coastline include damage to bridges and roads, water treatment plants, homes, bulk fuel tanks, seawalls, breakwaters, berms, airstrips, generators, and power plants. On September 20, 2022, Governor Mike Dunleavy requested a federal disaster declaration. We sent a letter that same evening requesting the President expeditiously approve that request.

On September 19, 2022 Senator Schumer delivered a speech on the Senate floor in which he stated that he spoke with you and "urge[d] that [FEMA] be ready to approve a temporary 100% federal cost share for all emergency protective services that Puerto Rico conducts in the coming days." As you consider requests for storm recovery funding and cost shares across the nation, including for Puerto Rico in Region 2, we expect you to deliver an equitable decision for Alaska.

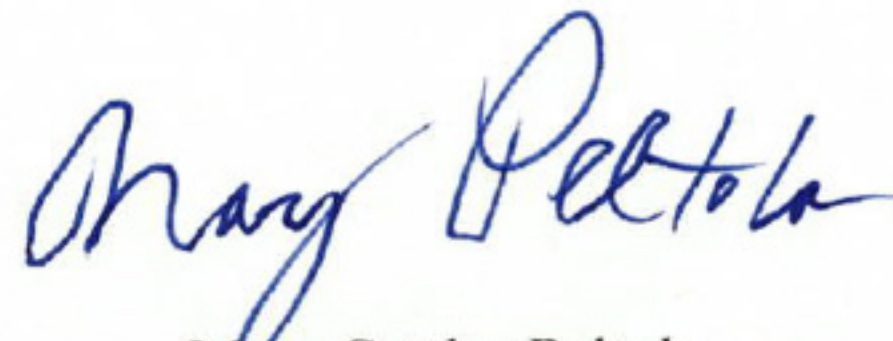
Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Mary Sattler Peltola
Representative for All Alaska