

Press Release

September 25, 2018

EMERGENCY MANAGERS URGE CONGRESS TO PASS DISASTER REFORMS

Lexington, KY - The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) today call upon Members of Congress to swiftly pass H.R. 302 which includes the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA). For nearly a year, IAEM-USA and NEMA worked with the House Transportation and Infrastructure and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees in creating meaningful reforms of programs at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“The DRRA provides us the necessary tools to ensure the strength of emergency management by streamlining disaster response programs, adding flexibility into the system, and supporting programs such as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact,” said NEMA Vice President, Brad Richy. “We appreciated the opportunity to work with the committees as they developed this legislation and are pleased to see provisions included which bolster efforts to focus on predisaster mitigation and give those of us managing disasters the tools to be successful.”

“IAEM is pleased to have been a partner in the development of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act, a bill that will significantly enhance federal support for pre-disaster mitigation,” stated IAEM-USA President Nick Crossley, CEM. “The DRRA will help provide the resources needed to make our communities safer and more resilient. On behalf of all emergency management professionals who wake up every day thinking about and planning for the next disaster, I strongly urge the House and Senate to approve H.R. 302 this week.”

The provisions comprising the DRRA are Division D of H.R. 302, and expected to see Congressional action this week.

Established in 1974, NEMA represents the emergency management directors of the 50 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. These professionals are responsible to their governors for all-hazards emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery from all emergencies, disasters,

and threats to the homeland. NEMA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, and an affiliate of the Council of State Governments.

IAEM-USA is the nation's largest association of emergency management professionals, with over 4,200 members, including emergency managers at the state and local government levels, tribal nations, the military, colleges and universities, private business and the nonprofit sector. Most of the members are city and county emergency managers who perform the crucial function of coordinating and integrating the efforts at the local level to prepare for, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from all types of disasters, including terrorist attacks. The membership includes emergency managers from large urban areas as well as rural areas. IAEM is a non-profit, non-partisan organization headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia.

For more information on NEMA, contact Karen Cobuluis, Media Coordinator, at (859) 244-8143 or e-mail kcobuluis@csg.org.

NEMA is the association of professionals dedicated to enhancing public safety by improving the nation's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from all emergencies, disasters, and threats to our security. NEMA is an affiliate organization of The Council of State Governments, headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky.

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