

FF-956110



August 10, 2012

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD  
Governor

The Honorable W. Craig Fugate  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

In your short tenure at FEMA, we have seen a record number of disasters across the United States. Your leadership has been critical to ensuring that our national disaster response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation efforts remain strong and focused.

The State of Oregon also appreciates FEMA's emphasis on the 'whole community' approach to emergency management. We recognize that partnerships across all levels of government, non-profits, the business community and faith-based organizations are essential to preparing for and recovering from major disasters.

I write to you today to voice my support for FEMA's efforts to allow federally recognized tribes to make direct disaster declaration requests to the President of the United States. We take our government-to-government relationship with the Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes very seriously. Taking this step on emergency management would help strengthen Oregon's federally recognized tribes' self-governance and ensure equal access to federal resources when disasters impact tribal communities.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue and your support of our tribal partners. I look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen emergency management across Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Kitzhaber".

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.  
Governor

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