

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2025

The Honorable David Richardson
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Acting Administrator Richardson,

We write in support of St. Louis Mayor Cara Spencer's July 9, 2025, request and justification for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) mission, which would aid recovery efforts following the devastating storms and tornadoes that struck the St. Louis region on May 16, 2025. If approved, this mission would unlock USACE's unmatched staff, expertise, capacity, and equipment to support state and local efforts to remove debris, protect public health and safety, and support economic recovery.

On May 16, 2025, devastating storms and tornadoes hit the St. Louis region, resulting in the loss of five lives, an estimated \$1.6 billion in damage, and destruction or harm to 15% of the City's structures. Left behind in the wake of the storm were approximately one million tons of debris, primarily on private property, accumulating across more than 24,000 parcels. The hidden hazards inside the debris, which include construction and demolition waste, household hazardous materials, asbestos-containing items, and other dangerous substances, pose a significant risk to public health and safety.

Critically, we believe the City of St. Louis and the State of Missouri can uniquely demonstrate a strong ability to financially support a PPDR mission of this magnitude. In response to the disaster, the State of Missouri appropriated \$100 million to support the City's recovery efforts, alongside other avenues of funding. Both Mayor Spencer and Governor Kehoe are aligned in putting these dollars to work in support of the PPDR mission and in meeting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) cost-share requirements. We hope this gives FEMA the added confidence that approving this request would not only be impactful, but also fiscally sound.

FEMA's ongoing recovery efforts in the St. Louis region have not gone unseen. As members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation, we speak for the entire St. Louis region in expressing our gratitude for the rapid deployment of FEMA's resources and expertise following President Trump's declaration on June 9, 2025.

Respectfully, we urge your immediate review and approval of Mayor Spencer's request for a USACE PPDR mission to accompany these valiant local, state, and federal efforts. We

appreciate your attention to this request, and we stand ready to assist our constituents in any way possible.

Sincerely,



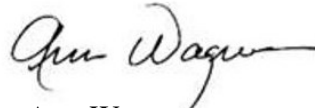
Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Dr. Robert Onder
Member of Congress



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Emmanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Eric Burlison
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress

Enclosures

CC: Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe; St. Louis Mayor Cara Spencer.