

# CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DELEGATION OFFICE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224 - 8962

July 15, 2025

The Honorable Russ Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20503

David Richardson  
Acting Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Director Vought and Acting Director Richardson:

We write to request that you urgently complete your review of, and obligate funds for, a project that could provide immediate and much-needed funds to Lincoln County as they continue to assess and respond to the recent and catastrophic flash flooding in and around Ruidoso. In the wake of the South Fork and Salt Fires – DR-4795 – Lincoln County submitted Project #754897 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Public Assistance Category A Debris Removal work, which was completed last year. The project, which has been fully reviewed by all necessary field and Consolidated Resource Center (CRC) staff – has an estimated cost of \$7.7 million. We understand that the project is in Phase V and currently under “Large Project Review”; we also understand that Lincoln County and the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) have not been provided a timeline for when they can expect OMB to complete that review.

The sheer scale of the damage in Lincoln County requires an urgent and robust response from the federal government. We welcomed President Trump’s granting of an Emergency Declaration on July 10, 2025, but that declaration only provides limited, direct federal assistance. And while that assistance is both much appreciated and much needed, it is only the first step in a long road to recovery for the New Mexicans impacted by this deadly weather system. The most current estimate for the cost of the debris removal necessitated by the flash flooding in Lincoln County is approximately \$17.6 million. The funding associated with Project #754897 would make an immediate impact in Lincoln County and is needed now. Further delays in the approval of this project will only create unnecessary downstream delays in the County’s and the State’s current disaster response.

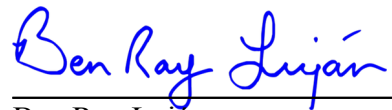
The loss of life and devastation in Ruidoso as a result of catastrophic flooding is tragic and heartbreaking, with three confirmed fatalities and dozens of homes and businesses already destroyed. The road to recovery for our constituents and communities will be long, and it will take a whole-of-government response to ensure that they are able to quickly and fully recover. Therefore, we urge you to immediately complete your review of Project #754897 and get the funding to DHSEM as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

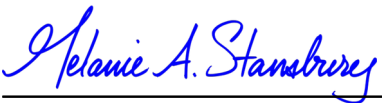
Sincerely,



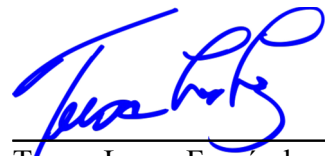
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



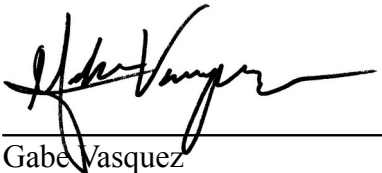
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress