



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 | www.oig.dhs.gov

January 6, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves
United States Senate
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Scott Perry
United States Senate
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graves and Chairman Perry,

Thank you for your December 3, 2024, letter requesting that Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) open an investigation into allegations that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) employees passed over homes impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton that displayed Trump campaign signs. I share your sentiments that any disaster funding provided by Congress must be made available to all affected and that it cannot be conditioned or delayed based on political views.

Your correspondence was referred to the DHS OIG Hotline. Information that is received by the DHS OIG Hotline is reviewed to determine if a DHS OIG investigation is warranted. If DHS OIG does not open an investigation, that information may be forwarded to an appropriate authority for review. Following our standard case opening criteria and operating procedures, we referred the allegations to FEMA's Office of Professional Responsibility for appropriate action.

We also reviewed the concerns raised in your letter as part of our work planning process and shared the letter with our program offices for consideration. When determining which projects to undertake, DHS OIG uses a risk-based, data-driven approach that takes into consideration numerous factors – for example, Congressional input, DHS OIG Hotline complaints, and reports from various oversight groups and non-governmental organizations - to name a few.

On December 17, 2024, my office initiated an audit of FEMA's Assessment of Community Trends. The objective is to determine how well FEMA followed its policies and procedures

when addressing safety concerns and determining community trends that impact disaster survivor assistance in response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

We greatly appreciate the information you provided, as it aided our decision-making process. I will be glad to share the results of this audit, future reports on this topic, or any of our numerous projects, with you if you would like to schedule a briefing with me.

Please contact me if you have questions, or your staff may contact Kristen Fredricks, Chief of Staff, at 202-981-6000.

Sincerely,

Joseph V. Cuffari, Ph.D.
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member
The Honorable Dina Titus, Ranking Member