



July 26th, 2022

Honorable Dina Titus
US House of Representatives
Nevada's 1st District
2464 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Congresswoman Titus,

The Disaster Recovery Coalition of America (DRCA) applauds the introduction of the bipartisan **Disaster Survivors Fairness Act (the Act)**. DRCA (www.thedrca.org) is a 501©6 non-profit, trade association organized in 2008 to advance the common interests of its members, to help advise and lead disaster recovery contractors as an industry, and to educate government decision makers and public opinion leaders on the industry's role in helping constituents prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the damage from costly catastrophes.

Our organization brings together leaders from the private and public sector through industry forums, events and roundtables with key stakeholders that help advance leadership, innovation, mitigation, and housing best practices across the emergency management system to improve America's response to and recovery from natural and man-made disasters. DRCA's leadership team includes some of the top emergency management experts in the country, and our members represent a significant amount of the overall disaster recovery work that takes place across America.

We believe this Act, which provides stronger tools for FEMA to implement the State-Managed Housing Pilot Authority until the issuance of final regulations, will provide much-needed relief to survivors trying to put their lives back together post-disaster. The Act's provisions that provide direct assistance to individuals and households if applicants are unable to make use of financial assistance for repairs and in cases where there is a lack of available resources for the repair of owner-occupied residences are fundamental to reducing Mother Nature's devastation from the impacts on housing.

In the aftermath of disasters, communities often face situations that require creative short-term and long-term housing solutions for populations with different geographic, infrastructure and socioeconomic challenges. Effectively facilitating temporary housing solutions for survivors coping with post-disaster housing challenges is a critical step toward long-term recovery. Planning for disaster housing should occur at all levels of government before a disaster strikes.

It is our organization's goal to work with emergency managers to coordinate the development of disaster housing plans with designated recovery leaders and appropriate housing and mass-care subject matter experts from across their jurisdictions. We recognize each community's unique characteristics, resources, cultural considerations and demographics that impact its ability to rebuild homes and restore public services.



The risks that displace individuals and households for long periods of time, the potential disaster housing needs of their communities and the capacity to help address those needs via sheltering, temporary housing or permanent housing solutions is the best strategy for their residents to complement overall housing challenges in an area.

This Act reinforces the importance of developing disaster housing plans to better meet the diverse and complex needs of communities. We stand ready to assist you and your colleagues as we work together for those impacted by disaster devastation in all arenas.

Thank you for your time, care and attention in addressing America's ability to housing to those in need following disasters. We believe post-disaster housing is one of the most important challenges facing the emergency management community today.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Casey", is written over the "Kind Regards," text.

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