



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

Providing leadership for the fire and emergency services since 1873

4025 FAIR RIDGE DRIVE • FAIRFAX, VA 22033-2868 • TEL: 703/273-0911 • FAX: 703/273-9363 • www.iafc.org

June 5, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Senator McCaskill:

On behalf of the nearly 12,000 fire and emergency service leaders of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I express our support for the nomination of Mr. Brock Long to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Long is an experienced emergency manager, who we believe would be well-qualified to lead FEMA.

Mr. Long has more than 16 years of experience in the field of emergency management, including serving as the director of the Alabama's Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) from 2008-2011. As the AEMA Director, Mr. Long served as the state coordinating officer for 14 disasters and served as the state incident commander during the Deepwater Horizon spill. He also has previous experience working at FEMA as a regional hurricane planner and response team leader.

Mr. Long has demonstrated experience in responding to all-hazards. Besides his roles in planning for hurricanes, he also has experience in planning for school safety and response to complex coordinated attacks. He also has worked with jurisdictions covered by the Urban Areas Security Initiative to develop multi-jurisdictional, all-hazard evacuation plans. In addition, Mr. Long is a graduate of the Executive Leadership Program at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

The IAFC looks forward to working with the committee to ensure that Mr. Long's nomination is considered in a timely manner. As the nation prepares to respond to an escalating number of natural and human-made threats, it is important that FEMA is led by someone with Mr. Long's experience. He understands the importance of building up morale at FEMA and developing a trained and experienced core of disaster management experts within the FEMA staff. He also understands the roles of federal, state and local communities during a major disaster and how they should work together for an effective response. America's fire and emergency service are on the front line of disaster response, and we know the importance of having a nominee with Mr. Long's experience leading FEMA.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief John D. Sinclair
President and Chairman of the Board

: kpl