



March 19, 2009

The Honorable Joe Lieberman, Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs  
United States Senate  
Room 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs  
United States Senate  
344 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our nearly 4000 members of the United States Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA), I am writing to strongly support the nomination of Craig Fugate to serve as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

We are pleased that an experienced and nationally recognized professional emergency manager has been tapped to lead the nation's emergency management agency. We believe that this move is a strong and clear statement of the importance that the Administration places on having a fully functional FEMA led by top-notch professionals.

Craig Fugate's decades of service in the field of emergency management began as a first responder, and then emergency management director in Alachua County, Florida. His demonstrated performance at the county level led to his selection as a senior member of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). Craig's innovative approaches to all facets of emergency management and dedicated support to local and county emergency management led to his appointment by two governors as director, FDEM. In this position, he earned national recognition for creative programs, including his partnerships with the private sector to maximize its contributions to response operations and his embracing technology, through social networking and other innovations.

Given the importance of the FEMA mission and the approach of hurricane season, we respectfully urge a speedy confirmation of Craig Fugate. We very much look forward to working with him and FEMA to provide safety and security to all citizens and communities.

Sincerely,

Russ Decker, CEM  
President  
IAEM-USA