

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2025

Russell Vought
Nominee
Office of Management of the Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Vought:

As part of the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158), Congress included resources for responding to and mitigating the Mendenhall Glacial Lake Outburst Flood in the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025. Governor Dunleavy's formal request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Juneau, Alaska, was approved on October 17, 2024, in response to the flooding in Mendenhall Valley caused by a glacial lake outburst into the Mendenhall River in August 2024. As the funding allocations under the American Relief Act are evaluated, we respectfully request recognition of the Congressional intent to address the Mendenhall Glacial flood recovery and mitigation efforts.

Including investigation eligibility for "glacial lake outburst" events enables the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to begin a work plan to assist this community increasingly impacted by these catastrophic glacial lake floods. Therefore, we specifically seek \$3 million in funding from USACE for a general investigation under Section 8315 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-263 NDAA, Division H, Title LXXXI). This investigation is critical to developing a long-term engineering solution to mitigate the recurring devastation caused by glacial flooding in the Mendenhall Valley. Additionally, with over \$12 billion included for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CBDG-DR) funds to address disasters in 2023 and 2024, we urge the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure Juneau receives robust funding to address their long-term recovery and unmet short-term resiliency needs stemming from glacial flooding events.

We appreciate the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) support in our community following the Major Disaster Declaration. However, allocating these additional funds provided by Congress is essential to developing both short- and long-term solutions for what is now considered to be an annual flooding event. Thank you for your consideration in ensuring the residents of Juneau's Mendenhall Valley receive this much-needed assistance. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Nick Begich
Representative for All Alaska

CC: Director Shalanda Young, Office of Management and Budget
Administrator Deanne Criswell, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Mr. Jaime Pinkham, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman, Department of Housing and Urban Development