The Honorable John Carter
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
FY15 FEMA Budget Request
Witness:
Administrator Craig Fugate
10:00 AM | Wednesday | March 25, 2014 | 2359 RHOB
Opening Statement As Prepared

Hearing is called to order –

This morning we welcome Administrator Craig Fugate to discuss the fiscal year 2015 budget request. Administrator, thank you for joining us.

Over the last few years, FEMA has worked to rebuild devastated communities and to rebuild itself. Administrator Fugate, this Committee has a strong history of responding to your agency's needs by providing the funding that was so desperately needed to rebuild and reorganize FEMA in the post-Katrina era – and we will continue to do so BUT that funding will not be a blank check.

Administrator Fugate, before we begin, I want to touch briefly on several issues which we will discuss at length later in the hearing.

With respect to disaster funding, do you have what you need to continue relief and recovery from today's disasters and those disasters that will occur tomorrow? To lower costs and speed up recovery, Congress provided additional authorities to FEMA last year – how are they being implemented and how will they save money in the future?

With respect to grants, your FY15 budget again includes a proposal to reform FEMA's grant structure, a proposal that we have seen before – and have denied at the request of our authorizers. This year FEMA has finally submitted the associated legislative proposals to the appropriate authorization committees. Why do we need a new grant program and what are the challenges ahead to obtain authorization?

Administrator Fugate, these are issues with which you are very familiar, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on these challenges.

Administrator, your written statement will be placed in the record, so I ask you to take five minutes to summarize it. But first, I'd like to recognize Mr. Price, our distinguished Ranking Member and former Chairman, for his opening remarks.

#####