

## The Honorable Brian Mast

### **Rep. Mast Budget Committee Member Day**

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 6; 9:43 AM

**LOCATION:** 210 Cannon House Office Building

**TOPIC/FORMAT:** 5-minute remarks on 13th appropriation bill

I know this committee takes very seriously that we work within our means - the means of we the people. And one of the places we consistently do not do this, year after year - and the numbers bear this out - is with disaster emergency supplemental funding.

Whether that be with a wildfire, a hurricane, a flood, a tornado, or something else domestically within the United States...or whether we deal with something abroad, in Europe, or war in the Middle East, or somewhere else, we do not account for this.

The twenty-year average for the amount that we do not account for is \$105 billion, on average. Some years, a little bit less, some years, a little bit more. I think this is something that needs to be accounted for. For example, if we're considering topline numbers set by the Limit Save Grow Act, and it was \$1.4 trillion, then as we're dividing it up for the 12 individual appropriations bills, that number should've come down to \$1.3 trillion. Why? Because year after year, we're spending, on average, \$105 billion more than what we account for.

Personally, in my opinion, I think we should create a thirteenth appropriation bill that specifically accounts for emergency disaster supplemental appropriations both foreign and domestic. I know this moves into the world of what goes into the disaster relief fund and what happens with SFOPS, but given that we're not accounting for it, I think it needs to be addressed, and I'd like to see the Budget Committee address this. To not do it is simply irresponsibility and goes against the commitments that we've made, as Republicans, and what we've campaigned on: fiscal responsibility. We believe in it, we work towards it, and if we don't account for that \$105 billion that we're spending, then we're not living up to the fiscal responsibility we promised.