

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
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**MEMORANDUM**

November 14, 2024

**To: Members, Committee on Oversight and Accountability**

**From: Committee Staff**

**Re: Hearing titled “Oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency”**

On Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 2:00 PM ET in Room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability will host a hearing titled “Oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.”

**I. BACKGROUND:**

In late September and early October, Hurricanes Helene and Milton swept through Florida and the Southeast, killing hundreds and collectively causing over \$150 billion in damage. As the interagency head of federal disaster response, FEMA began coordinating federal resources and directing federal volunteers. However, a federal agency volunteer filed a whistleblower report alleging that a FEMA supervisor expressly directed volunteers, assigned to go door to door offering assistance, to bypass homes with Trump campaign signs. Once this whistleblower’s allegations became public, FEMA reports that they terminated the supervisor and assured the public that the conduct was isolated and inconsistent with FEMA policy. However, the supervisor’s subsequent public statements tend to suggest that avoiding what she characterized as “politically hostile” homes may be common practice within the agency.

**II. HEARING PURPOSE:**

In light of the recent devastation caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton and allegations of political discrimination by FEMA officials, congressional oversight is necessary to ensure FEMA remains committed to its crucial disaster response mission and delivers relief in a nonpartisan manner. The hearing will allow Members to hear from Administrator Criswell about the efforts FEMA is taking to respond to ongoing challenges posed by the hurricanes and inquire about the culture of political bias within the agency.

**III. WITNESS:**

**Ms. Deanne Criswell**  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency