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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0917**

November 15, 2024

The Honorable Deanne Criswell  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Administrator Criswell,

According to recent media reports, an employee at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Marn'i Washington, directed subordinates to skip homes displaying signs supporting President Trump while canvassing areas to inform Florida residents of potential disaster recovery assistance. In a media appearance, Ms. Washington, whose employment was reportedly terminated by FEMA, asserted that this practice was not isolated. In fact, she stated that she followed FEMA's protocol, which instructed canvassers to practice "avoidance" of homes displaying signs of support for President Trump. Ms. Washington claimed this practice was implemented in North Carolina as well as Florida. No matter how this directive was initiated, it is an unconscionable act of malice that undermines the trust of the American people in your agency's ability to fairly distribute desperately needed aid in the wake of two devastating hurricanes this Fall.

Over the past four years, Americans have watched time and again as the Biden Administration weaponized the government to target supporters of President Trump. FEMA's actions have once again shown that this Administration cannot be trusted to administer government programs in a fair manner. It is a disturbing final act for a sad and vengeful Administration.

Americans of all political stripes should be able to trust that their government will not discriminate on the basis of political affiliation when distributing disaster relief. This must never happen again. In its remaining days, the Biden Administration must take extraordinary steps to ensure this behavior is not tolerated and seek to repair the trust broken with the American people. To that end, I expect that you will provide information about your efforts to investigate this incident, and I want answers to the following questions by November 25, 2024.

1. Is it agency policy for FEMA employees to practice "avoidance" in certain situations as claimed by Ms. Washington?

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2. Does this "avoidance" protocol include skipping homes displaying support for certain political ideologies or particular political candidates?
3. What employment actions were taken against FEMA employees who directed and/or participated in discrimination against supporters of President Trump?
4. If terminated, were employees also debarred from future employment and contracts with the federal government?
5. Have you launched an internal review of agency communications to ascertain if other employees have provided similar directions to subordinates? If so, when can Congress expect to receive any findings from this investigation?
6. Has FEMA identified all the homes skipped by canvassers due to political affiliation? If so, what efforts have been made to ensure these individuals receive proper attention from your agency?

Sincerely,



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

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