

**To: Congressman Chuck Edwards**  
**From: Monika Konrad**  
**Subject: TNI Member Day Hearing – FEMA Reform Act**  
**Date: January 14, 2026**

## REMARKS

**Bottom Line Up Front: TNI Member Day hearing remarks.**

I want to begin by thanking Chairman Graves for having me at this TNI Member Day Hearing and for making FEMA reform a priority this Congress. His leadership ensured that communities like mine, which have been hit hard by natural disasters, were heard as this legislation was developed.

In Western North Carolina, Hurricane Helene was not just another storm — it was devastating. It washed out mountain roads, destroyed homes and businesses, and left entire communities cut off and uncertain about how they would recover.

That is why the FEMA Reform Act is so important.

Some of the bills I've introduced included in this package — including the Disaster Survivors Fairness Act, the Fair Disaster Assistance Act, the Promoting Resilient Buildings Act, and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities for All Act — all move us toward the same goal: a FEMA that works for disaster survivors, not against them.

Together, these reforms make FEMA fairer, faster, and more focused on real recovery. They recognize that families should not be stuck navigating red tape while trying to put their lives back together, and that disaster assistance should reflect real-world costs and real-world needs — especially in rural and hard-hit areas like Western North Carolina.

They also recognize that we cannot keep rebuilding the same vulnerable infrastructure and hoping for a different result. These reforms give communities the tools to rebuild stronger, protect critical facilities, and invest in resilience so the next storm does not undo what taxpayers just paid to fix.

The FEMA Reform Act puts disaster survivors back at the center of this system. It cuts through bureaucracy, strengthens our infrastructure, and ensures that when disaster strikes, the federal government is a partner in recovery — not an obstacle.

For the families still rebuilding after Helene, and for every community that knows another storm is coming, this legislation is urgently needed. I urge leadership to put this bill on the floor for a vote, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.