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William B. “Brock” Long, Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Long,

I saw your testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on November 30, 2017 in which you emphasized that local communities – not FEMA – should be the first responders and must take a more active role in their preparedness.

I believe I can be of assistance. I have been advocating community preparedness and resilience for several years now and I have attached two copies of my book: *The Civil Defense Book*. This book is directly on point: it is plan for communities to be more prepared and resilient. As I explain in detail, the concept is for communities to develop a non-profit civil defense organization working in partnership with their local authorities to prepare their communities for a worst-case disaster. This model is a “resource multiplier” for local emergency managers, states and ultimately the federal government.

As you know, “civil defense” gradually morphed into “emergency management” over the years and I believe we lost something vital in the process: Somehow we lost real community involvement. The only way we can achieve more prepared and resilient communities – and ultimately a more prepared and resilient U.S. – is by a grassroots, bottom-up civil defense program.

The focus of this proposed plan is a bottom-up program to teach and empower communities to be more resilient to threats to the electric grid and other disasters.

I believe that we need more resilient communities that have a plan to function on their own for a long period of time in the event of a national-scale disaster. Challenging? Yes. Impossible? No. Most importantly, communities that are prepared for a worst-case scenario will be prepared for any disaster or emergency. There is much we can do ahead of time to mitigate the loss of life. That is the message I am trying to get out to emergency managers, communities and anyone who will listen.

I would love to meet with you to discuss how we can make our communities more prepared and resilient.

Sincerely,