

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We are writing as the Maryland Congressional Delegation to express our strong support for Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's appeal of the denial of an emergency declaration for response actions directly related to the 59<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2021. The federal government denied this request on January 17, 2021.

Maryland began planning for potential impacts from the inauguration several months in advance of the event. However, the breach and riots at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 demonstrated the need for additional coordination and planning leading up to the January 20 inauguration, due to potential threats in Washington, the National Capital Region (NCR), and state capitals such as Annapolis. Emergency operations centers at both the state and local levels activated to both monitor and coordinate necessary support. Maryland took significant, necessary, and reasonable preparations to ensure the overall safety of the public throughout the events surrounding the inauguration.

Several state and local government agencies incurred costs for in-state activities directly in response to the inauguration, including the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, the Maryland State Police, and the Maryland Department of Transportation. After the incident at the Capitol on January 6, specialized law enforcement teams were placed on standby for response to potential threats both in the state and in the District of Columbia. Fortunately, and in part due to better preparations, we witnessed a peaceful transition on January 20, 2021.

The State of Maryland continues to experience unprecedented fiscal challenges due to COVID-19. Inauguration response activities placed an additional burden on staffing levels throughout the state, as personnel performing emergency protecting measures for COVID-19 took on these added tasks. We therefore request that you grant the State of Maryland's appeal and approve the emergency declaration request, following the work of state and local governments in conducting emergency protective measures (eligible under FEMA Public Assistance Category B) in direct support of the inauguration.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this request, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

/s/ Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress

/s/ C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

/s/ John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

/s/ Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

/s/ David Trone  
Member of Congress

Cc: Janice Barlow, Acting Regional Administrator, FEMA Region III  
Robert Fenton, Jr., Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator