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Congress of the United States
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**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC
COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Governor Hobbs:

Thanks in advance for your leadership in the coming days as we anticipate flooding in the state from Hurricane Priscilla. I am writing today to urge you, if you request a federal Disaster Declaration related to the hurricane or its remnants, to request the Department of Homeland Security waive the policy requiring Secretary Noem's personal approval of all disbursements over \$100,000.

Hurricane Priscilla is forecast to bring prolonged, potentially disastrous rainfall to Arizona and the Desert Southwest. More than a month's-worth of rain could fall in Arizona over the course of a few days. Hazardous, widespread flooding following historic droughts and wildfires across the region have increased risks of runoff and flash floods. If this event exceeds local and state response capacity, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must be prepared to respond immediately to save lives and property.

It has been proven that DHS's current \$100,000 review policy delays the delivery of FEMA's aid. During the July 4 flash flooding disaster in Texas earlier this year, this approval policy delayed the deployment of Urban Search and Rescue by over 72 hours and caused disaster survivors call center contracts to lapse. The entire disaster claimed at least 135 lives.

The FEMA Administrator is the primary coordinator for disaster response. They can take action to anticipate needs and proactively move resources swiftly, even without waiting for a state request. However, if the cost exceeds the \$100,000 threshold, it will be subject to this bureaucratic policy.

Please consider this if you need to submit an emergency or major disaster this declaration request to the President, and please notify me if there are any other ways I can be of assistance at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Greg Stanton".

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress