

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 17, 2012

Administrator William Craig Fugate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW Suite 828
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate,

I write you today to express concern regarding the risk profile issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Las Vegas urban area for FY12.

Las Vegas attracted more than 38.9 million visitors in 2011, the second highest total in history and a 4.3 percent increase over 2010, according to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA). It is home to Nellis Air Force Base and is situated close to the Hoover Dam as well as the National Nuclear Security Site.

In spite of this, the Las Vegas urban area has been ranked #30 among Metropolitan Statistical Areas. This is a decline of 8 spots from #22 in FY 2011.

I am concerned that the measurements utilized by FEMA do not accurately portray the risks that exist in one of the top tourist locations in the world and that is why I am asking for a justification of the conclusions that lead to FEMA downgrading the risk assessed to the Las Vegas urban area.

It is critically important that FEMA accurately assess the risk elements for the Las Vegas urban area. Furthermore, it is my hope that any discrepancies between local administrators and FEMA be properly addressed so that the full measure of risk is properly calculated. I look forward to your response to my inquiry within two weeks of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
U.S. Senator