



from the office of

SENATOR DAVID BROCK SMITH

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Senator David Brock Smith Urges FEMA to Reverse Denials and Approve Emergency Funding for East Evans Creek and Rowe Creek Fire Complex

SALEM, OR – Senator David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford), Vice Chair of the Senate Energy & Environment Committee, [sent a letter](#) calling on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to immediately reverse its denials of Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) funding for the East Evans Creek Fire and the Rowe Creek Fire Complex. These two major wildfires that have exceeded established thresholds for federal assistance and continue to threaten Oregon communities.

Oregon is experiencing one of its worst early wildfire seasons on record, with more than one million acres burned and tens of thousands of residents under evacuation orders. While FEMA approved FMAGs for three major fires, including the Lower Dry Creek Fire, Akawa Butte Fire, and Grasshopper Fire, the agency denied assistance for East Evans Creek and Rowe Creek despite both incidents surpassing the practical standard of more than 200 homes under immediate threat.

“The severity of these fires and the number of Oregonians displaced make FEMA’s denials unacceptable,” said Senator Brock Smith. “Our communities followed protocol, documented the threat, and demonstrated clear eligibility. They deserve the same urgency and support FEMA has provided elsewhere.”

The East Evans Creek Fire had more than 230 homes under Level 3 ‘Go Now’ evacuation and threatened roads, utilities, communications towers, and agricultural operations. The Rowe Creek Complex had more than 400 residents under Level 3 evacuation and has since grown beyond 300,000 acres.

Bipartisan legislators have raised concerns. Rep. Emerson Levy stated that both fires met the threshold for impacted households but were “turned away.” Rep. Vicki Breese-Iverson noted that rural communities face “same disaster, same need, but not the same help.”

“I echo my colleagues, ‘when disaster hits one part of Oregon, it hits all of us,’” said Senator Brock Smith. “I urge FEMA to reverse these denials and approve FMAG funding immediately, so our firefighters, communities, their residents and the businesses that support them receive the assistance they urgently need.”

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Senator David Brock Smith represents Senate District 1, which includes Curry, Coos and Douglas Counties, Southwest Oregon's Fish, Farm & Forestry District. This press release and an archive of previous press releases issued by Senator David Brock Smith's office are available on the web at: www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithd