

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 31, 2013

W. Craig Fugate, Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

On behalf of the residents of Vermont, I am writing to extend an invitation to you to attend an important event for both our state and your organization.

Since the devastation wrought by Tropical Storm Irene nearly two years ago, FEMA has been a critical partner in Vermont's recovery, providing assistance both to our citizens and to our state and local governments.

One of the most critical elements of our recovery has been the effort to restore the flooded-damaged Waterbury State Office Complex, which also housed our state's psychiatric facility, the Vermont State Hospital.

Between these two entities, roughly 1,500 state employees were displaced, creating a considerable hardship for the people and businesses of Waterbury, already struggling to recover from their own losses. At the time, I promised that I would do everything I could to return the state workers back to Waterbury.

While FEMA has helped us relocate and de-centralize our psychiatric care system with assistance to construct a state-of-the-art psychiatric hospital in Berlin and other facilities around the state, returning the remaining state employees to Waterbury has proven more challenging. However, with persistence and hard work on the part of your team at FEMA, my administration, and Vermont's congressional delegation, we have finally arrived at a solution that maximizes FEMA's contribution to our rebuilding efforts and comports with federal law and policy.

As the second anniversary of Irene approaches, Vermont is ready to mark the occasion – and our progress in recovery – with a ceremony to commemorate the rebirth of the Waterbury State Office Complex.

I hope that you can join me, U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, representatives from U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and U.S. Rep. Peter Welch's offices, other dignitaries, and the people of Vermont in

celebrating this milestone at a ceremonial ground breaking on Thursday, August 29, at the Waterbury State Office Complex. You are also welcome to join myself and other Vermonters at a two-year commemorative ceremony on August 28 in the central Vermont area.

Thank you and your team at FEMA for your ongoing support, and I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Peter Shumlin
Governor of Vermont