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<u>Disaster Equity and Fairness Act</u>

In light of year after year of increasingly catastrophic wildfires in the West, it has become clear that FEMA's current statutory authorities and practices for helping communities prepare for and recover from wildfires need to be updated to reflect the "new normal" facing Western states.

The *Disaster Equity and Fairness Act* would ensure that FEMA's disaster preparedness and response efforts fully address the unique nature of underserved communities, emergency food needs, and the impact of consecutive disasters on communities.

<u>What the *Disaster Equity and Fairness Act* would do:</u>

- **Underserved Communities:** In the aftermath of a disaster, large and wealthier communities have the resources to hire professionals to navigate the FEMA bureaucracy and FEMA's mitigation grant application process. This bill would ensure that underserved communities receive technical assistance from FEMA in order to more equitably access federal grants.

- **Emergency Food Delivery:** Provide survivors with better access to food and water immediately after a disaster by permanently increasing the federal cost share for emergency food delivery assistance from 75% to 90%. Additionally, it would increase the federal cost share for food delivery assistance to 100% for the first 30 days after a disaster occurs. This will relieve local governments of initial financial burdens in the aftermath of a disaster and ensure that cost is not a prohibitive factor when it comes to feeding disaster survivors.

- **Consecutive Disasters and Cost Share Adjustments:** Provide additional resources for state and local governments facing cumulative impacts from repeat wildfires and other disasters. With cities and communities across the West now facing repeat disasters year after year, municipal and county budgets are being stretched to the brink. In order to support communities hit by multiple disasters, this bill would increase the federal cost share of disaster assistance to not less than 90% where there are consecutive disasters.