

September 2, 2017
Eric Babson
babson@math.ucdavis.edu
1094 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about disasters. The hurricane in Texas is a good reminder, but the water in Flint, the financial crisis and the current opioid epidemic also come to mind. One of the main purposes of government is to stabilize society by preparing for rare but disastrous events. This is something private enterprise is particularly bad at since a lost fortune is simply a lost fortune. There is not much difference whether it happens because of political back stabbing or a collapse of the financial system. For the rest of society, though the difference is huge. There are many government regulations which are designed to work over a long period to mitigate such disasters. These include environmental regulations, financial regulations, building and water safety regulations, infrastructure and of course FEMA. Your recent official actions have involved scaling back many of these safety regulations and your proposed budget would eviscerate many departments, FEMA among them. I hope the current tragedy will encourage a shift in thinking.

Please assure me that you will focus on long term stability.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our historic stability.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson