

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 20, 1985

Mr. Louis O. Giuffrida  
Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Giuffrida:

As you may recall, the winter of 1979 was a disaster for the Chicago metropolitan area and large parts of Illinois. In January, 1979, the City of Chicago had over three feet of snow on the ground, a calamity made even more severe by the fact that the snow was accompanied by a long period of sub-zero snow, making an already difficult snow removal task virtually impossible.

Chicago and other severely affected areas needed help to cope with this disaster -- it was simply beyond its own resources -- and the Federal Emergency Management Agency provided some of that essential assistance. Chicago received an emergency \$7.5 million advance grant from FEMA's discretionary account.

This assistance was invaluable at the time. It is now six years later, however, and FEMA is attempting to get approximately \$3.5 million of the grant back, alleging, as we understand it, inadequate documentation of some expenses, and unsatisfactory supervisory controls.

We are not surprised if the records are in less than perfect shape. People were working around the clock for days on end, and shortcuts necessarily were taken in an effort to clear the streets and get the city functioning again.

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We strongly urge you to keep the magnitude of the disaster that the City faced in mind as the agency considers this issue, and we hope you will not seek to have Chicago, which is already extremely hard-pressed financially, repay the \$3.5 million.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our views. We look forward to your early reply.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Dixon

Karlfine

Frank Commins

Edward Modigliani

Peter A. Sporko

Lane Evans

Temple Bruce

Marie Price

Alfred Hyde

John A.

John Kelly

Ken Gray

