



America's Small Town Capital

Mayor Jack McCullough

City Council Members:

Sal Alfano
Cary Brown
Adrienne Gil
Tim Heney
Lauren Hierl
Pelín Kohn

William Fraser
City Manager

Kelly Murphy
Assistant City Manager

Mary Smith
Assistant to the City Manager

To: Chair Lanpher and Members of the House Appropriations Committee

From: William Fraser, Montpelier City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Fraser", is placed to the right of the "From:" line.

On behalf of Mayor McCullough and the City Council, I extend our community's profound gratitude for the House Appropriations Committee's allocation towards Montpelier's recovery efforts through the FY24 Budget Adjustment Act (BAA). This support will be huge help for the City government facing unprecedented challenges in the aftermath of the devastating floods.

The scope of financial impact and the subsequent need for a comprehensive and robust recovery significantly surpass the current funding levels. We respectfully reassert our request for an additional \$475,000 to reach the initially requested total of \$1.3 million for municipal lost revenue. This adjustment is crucial for maintaining the stability of our City's services during these challenging times.

Additionally, there are several flood impacted residents either unhoused or living in conditions far below any standard of dignity who are desperately waiting for the state's intervention. We continue our request for \$2 million designated for the elevation of homes within flood-prone areas. This funding is critical, especially for the residents of Lower State Street and Lower Elm Street, where 10 properties, comprising 18 housing units, face a constant threat of future flooding. These are homes of citizens, who, despite adhering to all recommended precautions, find themselves in horrible circumstances beyond their control and with no FEMA assistance forthcoming for multiple years if at all.

This is a decision between making a cost-effective investment now, at an estimated cost of \$180,000 to \$200,000 per house, versus facing the potential need to spend approximately \$8.1 million to replace these much needed housing units in the future.

The 2023 floods have left a lasting impact on Montpelier, but they have also provided us with the clarity to prioritize our collective resilience and the well-being of our citizens above all. The requested \$2.475 million is a plea to help protect our community and to offer a lifeline to our residents who are living in precarious and dangerous situations.

We stand ready to engage in discussions to expedite this critical support. Thank you for your hard work and for considering this urgent request.

CC: Speaker Jill Krowinski, Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, Rep. Lanpher, Rep. Scheu, Rep. Casey, Rep. McCann, Sen. Kitchel, Sen. Cummings, Sen. Perchlik, Sen. Watson

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