

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 17, 2018

Michael Grimm
Assistant Administrator for Mitigation
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St. SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Grimm:

We write to express our support for three Fiscal Year 2017 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant applications the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) received from the state of Missouri. The Miller R-II, Neosho, and Sparta R-III school districts are each seeking federal funding to assist with the construction of tornado and severe wind shelters—or “safe rooms”—in their communities. With FEMA assistance, these projects will reduce the risk of death and injury for nearly 2,300 Missouri residents and schoolchildren in the event of a severe storm.

Each of the communities that applied for a PDM grant has experienced recent threats from extreme weather events. The Miller R-II School District sustained over \$92,000 in damage from an EF-0 tornado that struck Miller High School on May 19, 2017. In Newton County, Missouri, where the Neosho School District is located, Goodman Elementary School was destroyed when an EF-2 tornado swept through the county on April 4, 2017. Nearly 30 tornados have been reported in Christian County, Missouri—home to the Sparta R-III school district—during the past 50 years.

While we understand that federal resources are limited, we want to highlight these particular grant applications for you. The underlying projects have the potential to significantly reduce risks to individuals and property—and reduce the reliance on federal funding—during future disasters. We ask for your full and fair consideration of these Missouri funding requests.

Sincerely,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator