



STATE OF ARKANSAS
SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS
GOVERNOR

May 7, 2025

Dear President Trump:

You made a bold commitment to the American people to end waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government, balance the budget, and return those savings to the American taxpayer. As Governor of Arkansas, I represent more than 3 million of those taxpayers and I join them in applauding your efforts to reduce out-of-control spending and for your approval to provide aid to Arkansans in need of disaster assistance.

You have expressed concerns specifically about the costly and often ineffective ways that the federal government responds to natural disasters. I agree. FEMA needs reform to both save money and provide greater direct assistance to disaster victims.

Here in Arkansas, we are no strangers to natural disasters. Just since the new year, my state has seen dozens of tornadoes, hundreds of wildfires, and generational flooding. Meanwhile, for decades, the federal government has wasted money on programs that do not benefit the American people, which your administration has rightly identified and ended: \$45 million for DEI scholarships in Burma, \$8 million to promote LGBT ideology in Lesotho, \$32 million for left-wing propaganda in Moldova, \$20 million for Arab "Sesame Street," and \$22 billion for free housing and cars for migrants.¹

Under the prior administration, FEMA explicitly discriminated against North Carolina and Florida disaster victims who had Trump signs in their yards² and instead wasted money on woke, DEI nonsense that did nothing to actually assist Americans in need.

I support your efforts to empower the states and our leadership. After all, we are the ones on the ground, and we see firsthand how our communities are affected by these disasters. D.C.-based, Deep State bureaucrats make decisions based on numbers on a spreadsheet, but they have never been to towns like Fifty Six, Cave City, Hardy, or Paragould. Arkansas is not Alaska or California, and the same formulas and responses that work for those states will not necessarily work for us. It is instead the people most connected to our communities – state and local leaders – who are best equipped to deliver aid without red tape and combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/03/remarks-by-president-trump-in-joint-address-to-congress/>

² Ashley Moody v. Deanne Criswell et al. (S.D. FLA. 2025), Case No. 2:24-cv-14365

You were elected – by a tremendous majority of electoral votes and an overwhelming majority of Arkansans – to end the failed policies of Washington and deliver real results for the American people. My administration supports that effort fully and is excited to help in any way we can. We appreciate Secretary Kristi Noem for her support and experience as the former Governor of South Dakota, and thank you, Mr. President, for your help to aid the people of Arkansas and for your leadership to get our country on track!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sarah Sanders", with a stylized, cursive script.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor of Arkansas