**July x, 2025**

To X:

We, the undersigned, stand united in opposition to federal staffing cuts that risk destroying crucial programs needed to protect Americans from the risks of extreme heat.

Each year, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps 6 million families pay their heating and cooling bills. Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr have fired **all** staff who administer this program, leaving the department unable to allocate desperately needed support. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has systematically cut funding to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and at one point signaled that the organization might be eliminated entirely. Cuts to organizations that help protect people from extreme heat put millions of Americans lives and health at-risk.

**We are seeing more and more extreme heat days and each year will bring more.** Across the contiguous United States, average temperatures have already risen about 60% more than the global average since 1970. Deadly extreme heat events are becoming more common with cities across the US experiencing heat waves intense enough to cause dramatic increases in death rates. Extreme heat domes and heat waves have overloaded hospitals and emergency rooms and even caused roads to buckle. Deaths result from heat stroke and related conditions, but also from cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and cerebrovascular disease. Low-income communities and seniors are the most vulnerable.

Instead of dismantling and undermining programs like LIHEAP and FEMA, we need to **strengthen and expand them** to ensure that seniors and vulnerable low-income families receive support to protect themselves during deadly heatwaves and communities are able to respond to extreme heat events.

We call on you to **publicly reject** proposals to eliminate FEMA, to oppose cutbacks and instead support expansion of the **Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** and other programs that support and prepare for people

Signed,