

## **DECLARATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

I, William Ray, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare:

1. I am over the age of eighteen and understand the obligations of an oath.
2. I am the Director of Emergency Management at the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NC DPS). I have held this role since 2021. I make this declaration based on personal knowledge and on my review of information and records gathered by agency staff.
3. NC DPS is a state agency. Emergency Management is the component of NC DPS whose responsibilities include hazard mitigation.
4. I am familiar with the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program (“BRIC”). BRIC funding is administered in North Carolina by NC DPS.
5. NC DPS and its subgrantees have 72 open projects selected for BRIC funding from Federal Fiscal Years 2020 through 2023 in the amount of approximately \$225 million in federal funds.
6. Examples of these open projects include the following:
  - a. The City of Salisbury, North Carolina was selected for a FY 2021 BRIC grant of approximately \$22.5 million for the Water Supply Resiliency Project for SRU Pump Station Along Yadkin River. The project is designed to improve potable water supply resiliency for communities in Rowan County. The project will provide a reliable source of water supply for 50,000 people during storm events by relocating the pump station to an area where it can be accessed during storms. The City of Salisbury has invested over \$3 million in engineering fees alone for the project, and FEMA has obligated funds for this project. However, FEMA announced it was

cancelling the BRIC program before construction on the project could begin. This decision imperils the future of this resource-intensive project in a community with limited funds. If the project does go forward, the costs will likely be higher because of the delay.

- b. The Town of Mount Pleasant was selected for a FY 2022 BRIC grant of approximately \$4.1 million for the Downtown Utility Duct Bank and Stormwater project. This project is designed to greatly reduce the risk of losing electric and telecommunications services within the Town of Mount Pleasant along with portions of Cabarrus and Stanly Counties. The project would also greatly reduce the risk of the existing stormwater system becoming overwhelmed by future flood events. In the past, stormwater has overflowed onto and caused damage to commercial and residential properties throughout the town, as well as inundated roads and interfered with travel. The project was selected as a BRIC recipient and was on the precipice of having funds obligated when FEMA announced it was cancelling the BRIC program. Mount Pleasant invested funds in engineering and design plans, but the future of the project is uncertain given the BRIC termination.
- c. The Town of Fairmont, North Carolina, was selected for a 2022 BRIC grant of approximately \$2.5 million for the Happy Hill PS and North Walnut Street PS Relocations. This project seeks to relocate two pump stations in the Town of Fairmont that have historically become inundated during significant storm events, including during Hurricanes Florence and

Matthew. This flooding has led to extended service interruptions, damage to essential system components, and excessive amounts of extraneous flow entering the collection system, which contributes to downstream sewer overflows. The future of this project is now uncertain given the BRIC termination.

7. In April 2025, FEMA terminated the BRIC program and cancelled the 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) for BRIC.

8. The cancellation of the BRIC program is devastating for North Carolina. In addition to the lost federal funding, NC DPS and its subgrantees have invested time, study, and their own financial resources into planning, design, public engagement, environmental review, and permitting for BRIC projects intended to protect communities and critical infrastructure from natural disasters and extreme weather events. Moreover, each BRIC project requires conducting a rigorous benefit-cost analysis that ensures the project will be cost-effective. That time and effort and those financial resources will be wasted if FEMA will not consider or fund these projects.

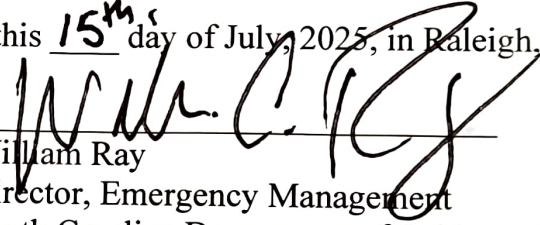
9. Many of the BRIC projects in North Carolina cannot move forward without BRIC funding. As a result of the termination of the BRIC program, North Carolina is facing an increased risk of lost lives, property damage, and public safety burdens. This is especially dire for North Carolina as the state has been hit with devastating hurricanes in recent years—from the coast to the mountains—and is likely to see continued heavy rain events whose damage would be mitigated through completion of the BRIC projects.

10. North Carolina does not have the budgetary resources or flexibility to make up for the lost funding without drawing funding away from other important initiatives.

11. North Carolina has applied to BRIC many times in the past, was prepared to apply for BRIC funds for fiscal year 2024, and intends to apply again in the future if the program is reinstated.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

  
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William Ray  
Director, Emergency Management  
North Carolina Department of Public Safety