Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

November 5, 2020

Austin Evers
American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org

Via Electronic Mail Only

Dear Mr. Evers:

Please find attached records in response to your October 2, 2020 request for records. You asked for all communications sent by Governor Tony Evers, Chief of Staff Maggie Gau, or Deputy Chief of Staff Kara Pennoyer to anyone communicating from an email address ending in usdoj.gov, fbi.gov, or dhs.gov between July 15, 2020 and the date of your request. You also requested that we include the entirety of any exchange that is responsive to your request. The responsive records are attached.

Sincerely,
Office of Legal Counsel

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Gau, Maggie M - GOV
To:	kevin.m.sligh@fema.dhs.gov
Cc:	Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
Bcc:	Cudaback, Britt G - GOV
Subject:	Letter from Gov. Evers to FEMA
Date:	Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:41:00 PM
Attachments:	FEMAPPEStatus_8.6.20.pdf image001.png

Interim Administrator Sligh,

Please see the attached letter from Governor Evers regarding Wisconsin's PPE supply and continued requests. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Best,
Maggie

Maggie Gau
Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Tony Evers
Maggie.Gau@wisconsin.gov
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http://wicount.wi.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

August 6, 2020

Kevin M. Sligh
Interim Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region V
536 S. Clark St, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

Dear Interim Administrator Sligh,

I would like to express my appreciation on behalf of the State of Wisconsin for the support provided by FEMA during the COVID-19 response. As the below table illustrates, FEMA has contributed to Wisconsin's PPE supply, including an additional 33,600 gowns that we were recently notified we will receive soon. These supplies are critical to protect our medical care providers as we continue to fight the pandemic.

WISCONSIN	QTY Requested	QTY Received	Fill Rate
COVERALLS	34,129	33,873	99%
GLOVES	4,237,869	565,800	13%
GOWNS	200,233	140,202	70%
N95 MASKS	1,500,613	1,698,050	113%
SURGICAL MASK	609,162	609,240	100%
VENTILATORS	-	-	-
FACE SHIELDS	149,975	159,128	106%
HUMAN REMAINS POUCH	1,500	1,504	100%
THERMOMETERS	8,895	8,895	100%

However, Wisconsin continues to experience critical shortages of gowns, gloves, and N95 respirators. This shortage was recently exacerbated when some nursing homes reported that the PPE received from FEMA was substandard and could not be used.

While we have been providing regular shipments of PPE to long-term care facilities and other care providers via our county and tribal emergency management offices, our state stockpiles are dwindling. I am requesting that you expedite Wisconsin's outstanding PPE requests, which include approximately 3.6 million gloves, 260,000 gowns, and 200,000 N95 respirators.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this request. I look forward to your continued support and partnership as we work together to protect our communities from COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Tony Evers
Governor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



82-A-000003

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Gau, Maggie M - GOV
To:	Kevin.m.sligh@fema.dhs.gov
Cc:	Engle, Greg - DMA; Williams, Darrell - DMA; Cooke, Paul - DMA
Subject:	Letter from Governor Evers
Date:	Friday, September 4, 2020 3:10:08 PM
Attachments:	Evers_FEMA PPE Changes_9.4.20.pdf ATT00001.txt

Please see the attached letter from Governor Evers. Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Maggie

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Tony Evers
Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

September 4, 2020

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

I am writing to express deep concern about the changes outlined in the September 1, 2020 updated guidance published by FEMA with respect to the COVID-19 disaster incident. I respectfully request FEMA rescind the new limitations on measures eligible for Public Assistance (PA), as they will have a negative impact on Wisconsin's disaster response work and diminish our ability to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In its disaster relief planning to date, Wisconsin has relied on FEMA's March 19, 2020 guidance describing various emergency protective measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic that are eligible for funding under the PA program. In that guidance, FEMA articulated broad eligibility of COVID-19 response measures—including "disinfection of eligible public facilities" and the "purchase and distribution of . . . personal protective equipment"—and urged state officials to take appropriate, necessary actions to protect the public health and safety. The March 19 guidance further assured state governments that these measures would "ensure that resource constraints do not inhibit efforts to respond to this unprecedented disaster."

Wisconsin took FEMA at its word, and it relied on the March 19 guidance in developing and implementing our state's COVID-19 disaster response strategy. This strategy has included the acquisition and distribution of PPE and disinfectants to communities across the state to meet public health needs, including to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools, prisons, and other congregate settings. The September 1 guidance, however, restricts funding for PPE only to healthcare workers, patients, first responders, and those performing otherwise eligible emergency work; allows the purchase of only a 60-day supply; and limits disinfection costs to facilities where emergency work is being performed.

These new limitations, if implemented, would require our state to revise its disaster response strategy midstream. For the many expenditures for which the state was counting on FEMA support that would no longer be eligible under the September 1 guidance, the state will need to either divert resources from other response programs to pay for them or forgo them altogether. Either way, the state's COVID-19 response efforts will suffer at a critical time.

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For these reasons, we I urge FEMA to reconsider and rescind the new limitations established by its September 1 revised guidance, and return to the goal it expressed in the March 19 guidance: ensuring that state "resource constraints do not inhibit efforts to respond to this unprecedented disaster."

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tony Evers
Governor

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Sent from my iPhone

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From:	Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
To:	Gau, Maggie M - GOV
Cc:	kevin.m.sligh@fema.dhs.gov; Friedman, Haley Z. EOP/WHO; Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP
Subject:	Re: Letter from Gov. Evers to FEMA
Date:	Thursday, August 6, 2020 4:03:59 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Received. In addition to FEMA, I've flagged for others involved in the supply chain work.

Nic

> On Aug 6, 2020, at 4:41 PM, Gau, Maggie M - GOV <maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov> wrote:
>
> Interim Administrator Sligh,
>
> Please see the attached letter from Governor Evers regarding Wisconsin's PPE supply and continued requests. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.
>
> Best,
> Maggie
>
> ---
> Maggie Gau
> Chief of Staff
> Office of Governor Tony Evers
> Maggie.Gau@wisconsin.gov
> Like Governor Tony Evers on Facebook | Follow Governor Tony Evers on Twitter
>
> <image001.png> >http://wicount.wi.gov<
>
> <FEMAPPEStatus_8.6.20.pdf>

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82-A-000009

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Sligh, Kevin M
To:	Gau, Maggie M - GOV; Pottebaum, Nicholas (who.eop.gov)
Cc:	Friedman, Haley Z. EOP/WHO; Obenshain, Anne (ovp.eop.gov); Joseph, James K (FEMA); Jones, Lloyd C; Andrade, Iris
Subject:	Re: Letter from Gov. Evers to FEMA
Date:	Thursday, August 6, 2020 4:20:24 PM

Maggie - Received...we're working a response and hope to have something back to WI by COB tomorrow.

Very respectfully,

Kevin Sligh

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Gau, Maggie M - GOV
Cc: Sligh, Kevin M; Friedman, Haley Z. EOP/WHO; Obenshain, Anne (ovp.eop.gov)
Subject: Re: Letter from Gov. Evers to FEMA

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> Maggie
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