

JERRY CARL  
ALABAMA

130 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4931  
FAX: (202) 225-0562  
WWW.CARL.HOUSE.GOV

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
NATURAL RESOURCES

## United States House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

July 14, 2022

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St SW  
Washington, D.C., 20024

Dear Administrator Criswell,

We write you today regarding the dangerous supply chain shortages affecting Alabama's electricity sector. As our colleagues from Florida have already stressed to you, labor shortages and competition from other industries for steel have made equipment procurement difficult, and as a result, critical electric grid equipment delivery times have increased 20-fold in the past two years. In 2018, transformers, the most critical pieces in ensuring reliable electricity to homes, took only three months to be delivered. Delivery delays for transformers are now averaging 18 to 25 months in Alabama, and some manufacturers are not even taking orders.

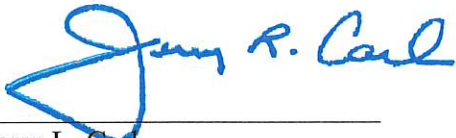
This is particularly concerning given that the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season is forecasted to produce hurricanes and tropical storms of above-average strength, and several communities along the Alabama coast have not recovered from Hurricane Sally. As the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season gets underway, we urge FEMA to mitigate this issue before a severe hurricane, tropical storm, or other natural disaster impacts communities in Alabama.

As you know well, when disasters occur, destroyed equipment needs to be replaced to ensure quick power restoration in impacted areas. The severe delay of critical parts will make this important restoration process nearly impossible, leaving many electric companies without critical electric equipment reserves. It would take only one hurricane or severe tropical storm this year to cause devastating damage to our constituents, and with the absence of a stockpile, power restoration for these communities would take substantially longer than in previous years.

Local electric utilities play a critical role in the growth and development of the communities they serve. Unfortunately, ongoing supply chain issues adversely affect the growth and management of these communities. Without proper equipment, utilities must triage parts, which delays upgrades and "non-essential" repairs. The weakened systems will make them more susceptible to damage when disaster occurs.

FEMA must employ mitigation efforts with the local Alabama electric community to ensure critical electric equipment such as transformers, bare wire, meters, and other electric grid equipment will be available ahead of the first disaster. We look forward to hearing back from your agency detailing its plans.

Sincerely,



---

Jerry L. Carl  
Member of Congress



---

Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



---

Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress



---

Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



---

Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



---

Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress