

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 8, 2017

The Honorable William Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

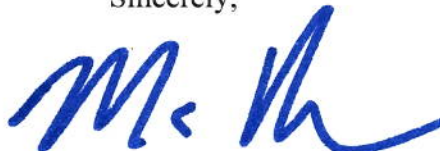
Dear Administrator Long:

Hurricane Irma remains a major storm that has already caused death and destruction in the Caribbean and is currently on track to make landfall in South Florida this weekend. As Floridians continue their preparation efforts, I write to convey the concerns of Florida's city and county leaders who are worried about potential delays and uncertainties in allowable reimbursements for necessary disaster recovery. I know you are committed to saving lives and ensuring basic services are restored as quickly as possible, and will do everything you can to streamline recovery efforts.

Local leaders and I are particularly concerned about debris removal on county, state and private roads that serve as crucial access points to hospitals and serve as important conduits to aide those in need, or who need to evacuate post-storm. These must be clear so that emergency services and utility repair crews are able to do their jobs. Also, the storm is a significant threat to Florida's numerous inland and coastal bridges, which may be rendered impassable following the storm, cutting off residents from life-saving assistance and recovery resources. I urge your agency to work with the state of Florida to rapidly assess the connectivity of Florida's road networks after the storm has passed and ensure that these residents are identified and assisted as quickly as possible.

Hurricane Irma has the potential to cause unprecedented destruction. I urge your agency to proactively eliminate unnecessary red tape and regulation in the recovery process, and look forward to continuing our ongoing efforts to engage across all levels of government to provide Floridians with a swift and comprehensive federal response. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator