



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

October 18, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to thank you for modifying Florida's major disaster declaration to include a 90 percent federal cost share for debris removal of the total eligible costs for one period of 30 consecutive days established by the state of Florida. As you know, Hurricane Irma caused extensive damage to homes and infrastructure across our state. The amended cost share will provide Florida's communities with much needed federal financial support during the debris removal process, which is both arduous and extensive. However, we urge you to approve an increased cost share designation for the entire recovery process in order to provide local governments with a sufficient opportunity to clear neighborhoods and roads.

Recognizing this enormous undertaking and the financial burden it will place on our state's communities, the requested cost share would provide Florida with the financial assistance needed to clear up the significant amounts of debris still scattered across the state. It is our understanding that the state of Florida will incur the per capita impact necessary in order for a federal cost share increase to be enacted for the eligible cost of both permanent and emergency work through the remainder of the recovery process. It is also our understanding that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has informed the Florida Division of Emergency Management that the state is on track to receive an increased cost share designation for the entire recovery process. Nevertheless, immediately approving an increased federal cost-share would provide much needed financial clarity to Florida communities.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our support for increasing the federal cost share to 100 percent, which we originally conveyed in our September 12th letter to your administration. As work continues across the state to repair damages to homes, schools, businesses and other communal spaces, we ask for your continued support in providing the financial assistance necessary to repair and restore our state.

We thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson".

Bill Nelson
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marco Rubio".

Marco Rubio
United States Senator