

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 15, 2018

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

Dear Administrator Long:

As you know, Hurricane Michael made landfall in Florida's panhandle five days ago, and communities are in the initial recovery stages. Many Floridians have been displaced from their homes and communities. As such, we write in support of the State of Florida's request for the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program. While we were pleased that the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved TSA for Bay County yesterday evening, it is critical that the TSA program is extended to all counties requested by the state, so that survivors have needed housing options in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

The TSA program, which provides short-term lodging in hotels and motels, is essential as many people return to destroyed or otherwise uninhabitable homes after the storm. While we appreciate the federal government's quick approval of a major disaster declaration designation for Florida, we must ensure all necessary resources are used in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

Countless homes were inundated with water damage and available housing will be an ongoing issue for Floridians in the affected area. As such, prompt approval of the TSA program will provide some comfort while survivors recover and rebuild after this catastrophic storm.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress