

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 6, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

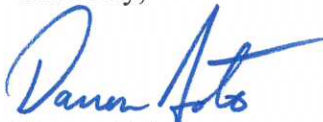
Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

As Congress crafts any forthcoming supplemental appropriations to assist U.S. states and territories affected by major disasters, we respectfully request that you fully fund Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) accounts that provide direct reimbursements for host-state evacuation and sheltering costs.

As you know, Hurricane Maria decimated the Island of Puerto Rico, resulting in the evacuation of tens of thousands of U.S. citizens to the mainland. Despite Florida's best efforts to assist Puerto Rican evacuees, Florida's municipalities lack a sufficient supply of housing to accommodate the recent, and anticipated, arrivals of evacuees from Puerto Rico. Since October 3, 2017, more than 90,000 individuals have arrived in Florida from Puerto Rico, a number expected to increase significantly in the coming months.

Florida's municipalities and school boards need funds to support the Puerto Rican evacuees. They lack the financial resources necessary to develop and implement a plan for ensuring that evacuees arriving in Florida have access to appropriate housing, schools, medical care, transportation, and other necessary resources. Florida and FEMA entered into a Host-State Agreement for Evacuation/Sheltering on October 5, 2017. This agreement allows FEMA to work with the state of Florida to provide direct reimbursements for Florida's host-state evacuation and sheltering costs. However, this agreement needs to be funded by Congress. That is why we respectfully request that you do all that you can to help fully fund FEMA accounts that can provide direct reimbursements for host-state evacuation and sheltering costs. We thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

Dennis Ross  
Member of Congress