

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2017

The Honorable William B. Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Long:

We respectfully request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) work with the state of Florida to provide direct reimbursements under the FEMA/Host-State Agreement entered on October 5, 2017 for its eligible evacuation and sheltering costs associated with Florida's recent sheltering support for evacuees from Puerto Rico.

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. Again, we respectfully request that you work with the state of Florida to provide direct reimbursements for Florida's 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