



January 24, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Minority Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

Last year, a scourge of natural disasters devastated our citizens and economies. While no longer front page news in Washington D.C., ongoing suffering becomes more acute the longer Congress waits to finish its work and pass a substantial disaster supplemental funding package. We urge the Senate to improve and expeditiously pass the supplemental and for Congress to send the bill to the President.

We appreciate the work of Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies in the recovery process of our jurisdictions. Over the past several months, we have received numerous assurances that adequate disaster funding was imminent. However, it is now 2018 and the supplemental appears to have slowed, despite the fact that the funding is critical to the recovery of our residents, businesses, and local governments. Its continued delay only exacerbates ongoing uncertainty in devastated areas.

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Simply put, the communities devastated by these storms cannot be completely put back together until the federal government makes good on its promises to our citizens. If ever there was a time and role for the federal government to urgently help its citizens rebuild communities damaged by epochal disasters, now is the time to step up and fill that role.

We stand ready to work with Congress to address the critical needs of people across storm-ravaged areas and recognize our collective work on this supplemental is only the next step in what will be a long-term recovery effort both at the federal and local level. Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



Greg Abbott
Governor
Texas



Rick Scott
Governor
Florida



Jerry Brown
Governor
California



Ricardo Rosselló
Governor
Puerto Rico