

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2018

Mr. Brock Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Long,

Massachusetts is home to one of the largest Puerto Rican communities in the United States. They are strong members of our community and make our state a better place to live, work and learn. Many of them have family that were directly impacted by Hurricane Maria—losing their homes, jobs and unfortunately, some lost their lives.

We are concerned about housing for families as the island continues to rebuild its infrastructure from Hurricane Maria and prepares for future storms.

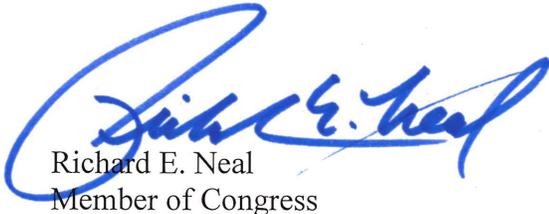
On May 3, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided an unconditional extension of the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program until June 30 that also included an offer for transportation back to Puerto Rico for families who remain in the TSA program in the continental United States. We have heard from many families that they are concerned about returning to the island because there isn't anything to go back to—their homes and businesses are destroyed or significant lack of basic necessities like health care, education and electricity.

The Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) is designed to help provide affordable housing for individuals and families following natural disasters. It played a critical role following Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy and Rita. People living on Puerto Rico, and those hoping to return, deserve housing opportunities as they continue to rebuild their lives. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) partners with FEMA on this program, but there must be an agreement about the terms of the program with FEMA for each disaster or situation and FEMA initiates the process. We request your agency to initiate the process just as the Governor of Puerto Rico did in December 2017.

The 2018 hurricane season is already underway and the island of Puerto Rico needs support to continue recovery but also build sustainable infrastructure for the future. Initiating the DHAP program will be another tool for the Puerto Rican community for these undertakings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



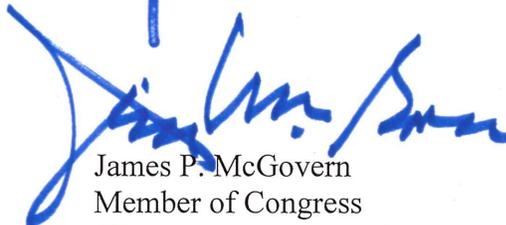
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



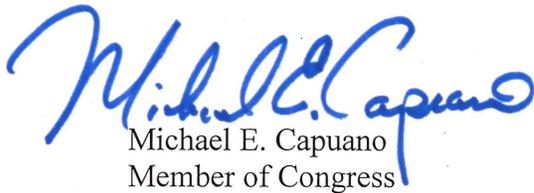
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



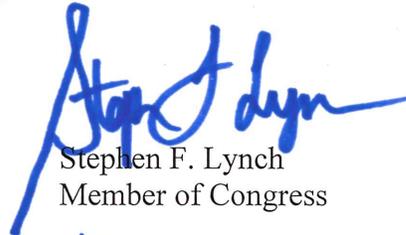
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



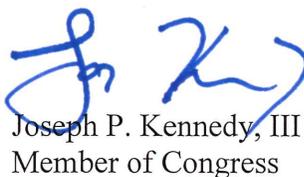
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



William Keating
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress