

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2017

The Honorable William B. Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW, Room 8 SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Long:

Thank you for your agency's efforts to respond to the natural disasters wreaking havoc in the United States, particularly in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As you and your government partners engage in recovery efforts, we strongly urge you to invest in a more resilient energy infrastructure focused on renewable energy technology and distributed generation.

It has been well over a month since Hurricanes Irma and Maria made landfall in the Caribbean, cutting off access to power for most communities on the islands. Without electricity, critical sites such as hospitals and wastewater treatment plants remain inoperable, local businesses stay closed, and performing regular tasks become nearly impossible. Following the storms, reports surfaced of solar power systems successfully providing energy to farmers, hospitals, and fire stations. Yet, on November 16, only 43 percent of Puerto Rico's power grid had been restored. This is a travesty.

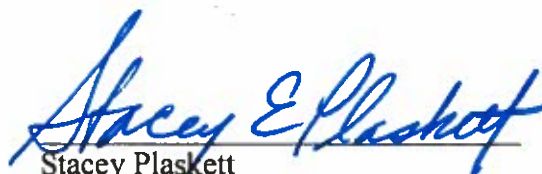
The power crises in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands clearly demonstrate the need to invest in electric infrastructure that is resilient and able to withstand powerful storms like Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Restoring the same type of grid that will be vulnerable to the same type of hurricane would be a monumental waste of taxpayer resources and an injustice to the American citizens living there. As such, we ask that rebuilding efforts on these islands include investment in a more resilient power grid, deploying renewable energy technologies and employing distributed generation systems. In recent years, hurricanes and other natural disasters have occurred at alarming rates. Rather than rebuilding dated electric grids, focusing on resiliency will improve our energy security and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

Again, thank you for your efforts to provide assistance to those affected by the recent hurricanes and wildfires. We appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

Darren Soto

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Al Lawson, Jr.

Al Lawson, Jr.
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Joe Crowley

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Alice L. Hastings

Alice L. Hastings
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

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Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
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Madeleine Z. Bordallo

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
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Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal
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Mike Quigley

Mike Quigley
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Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Gwen S. Moore

Gwen S. Moore
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.

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Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison
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Jared Huffman

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Colleen Hanabusa
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Mark Pocan
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Niki Tsongas

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Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright

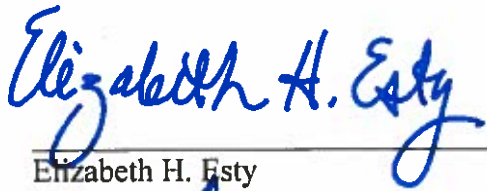
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Alma Adams

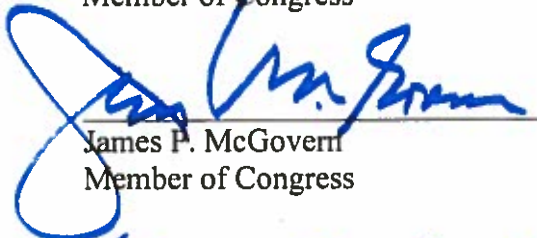
Alma Adams
Member of Congress



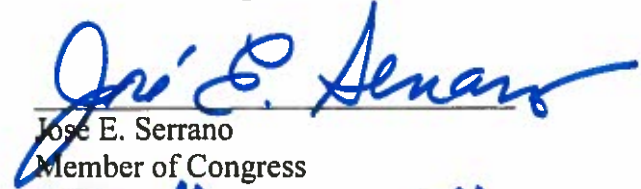
Elizabeth H. Esty
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Chellie Pingree
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Member of Congress



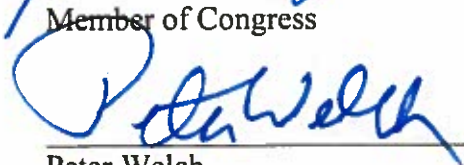
Jose E. Serrano
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Mark Takano
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Betty McCollum
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Peter Welch
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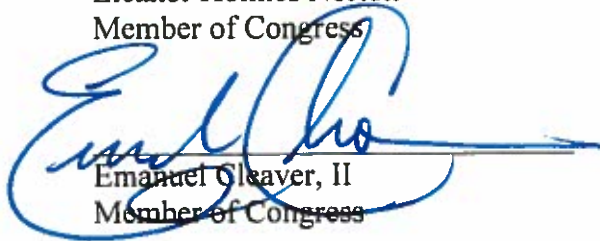
Carol Shea-Porter
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Alan Lowenthal
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Dwight Evans
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Nanette Diaz Barragan
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Marcia L. Fudge
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Juan Vargas
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Member of Congress



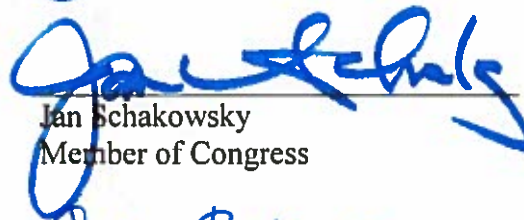
Anthony G. Brown
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Jackie Speier
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Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



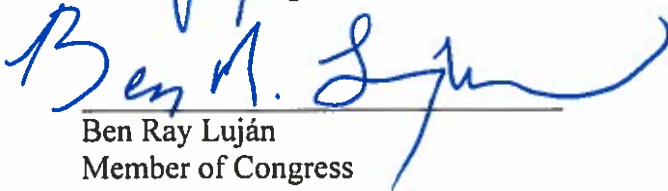
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



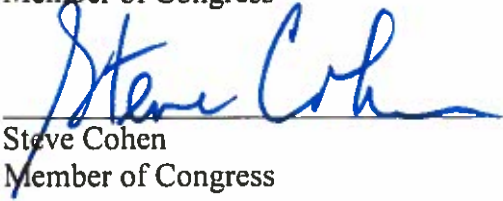
Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



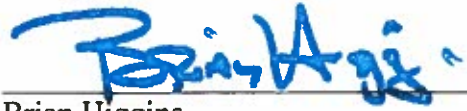
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress