

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.

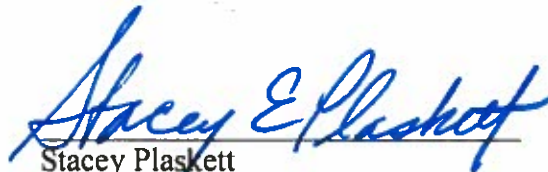
The power crises in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands clearly demonstrate the need to invest in electric infrastructure that is resilient and able to withstand powerful storms like Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Restoring the same type of grid that will be vulnerable to the same type of hurricane would 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
Member of Congress



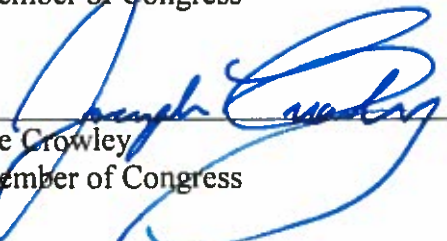
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress




Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



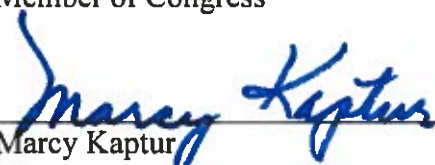
Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



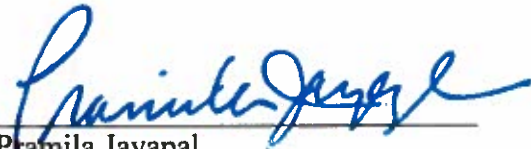
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



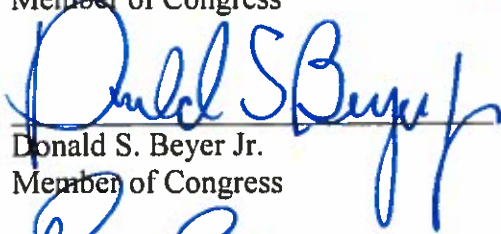
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress




Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



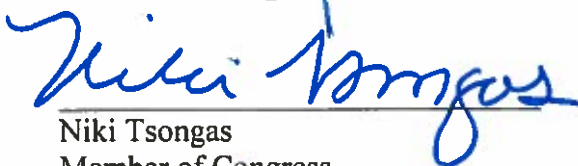
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



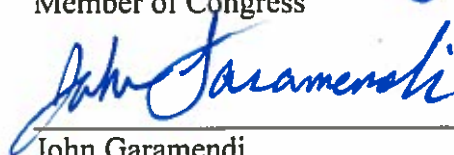
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



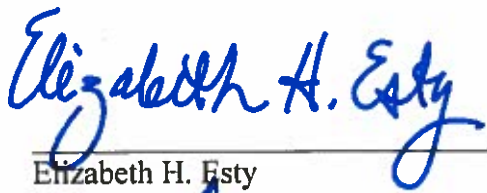
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



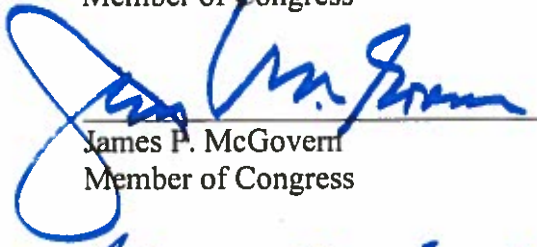
Alma Adams
Member of Congress



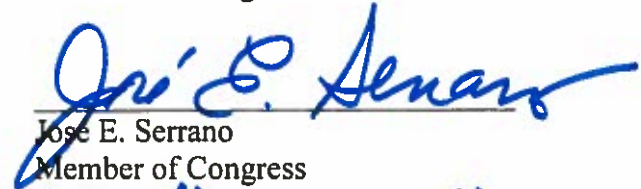
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



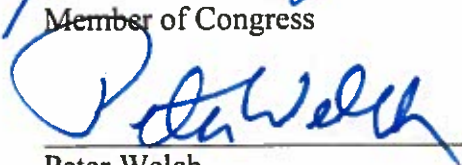
Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



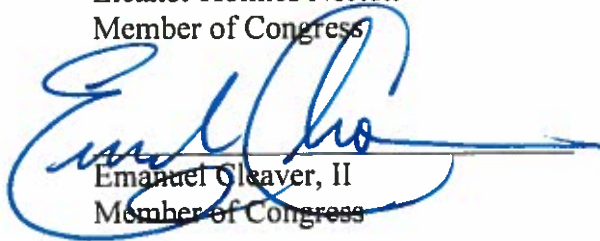
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



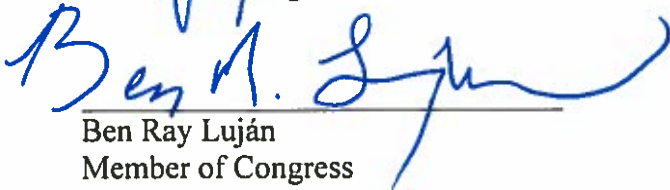
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



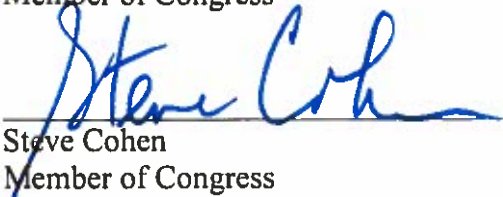
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



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