

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 7, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

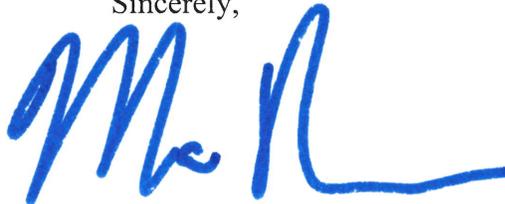
Dear Mr. President:

I write in full support of Florida Governor Rick Scott's request for an expedited major disaster declaration for the state of Florida. Although Hurricane Matthew has not yet completely passed, the storm has already caused destruction that warrants your immediate consideration and approval of this request.

Hurricane Matthew, a category four hurricane that has caused death and destruction, targeted Florida on October 6, 2016. It is expected to continue hitting the state until tomorrow, and, according to some forecasts, may even circle back to impact the state again. This massive storm has battered coastal communities with winds up to 140 miles per hour. Forty-four counties declared local states of emergency, with 11 counties forcing mandatory evacuations. While the state has yet to commence an assessment of damage due to unsafe conditions remaining in many areas, we must be prepared for the long road of recovery ahead.

I appreciate your approval of a pre-landfall emergency declaration, which will aid in recouping resources expended in evacuating Floridians to safety. A major disaster declaration is now necessary to assist the people of Florida once the storm has passed. I urge you to quickly approve Governor Scott's request so that Florida has the resources necessary to help those in need.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator