

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 15, 2016

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

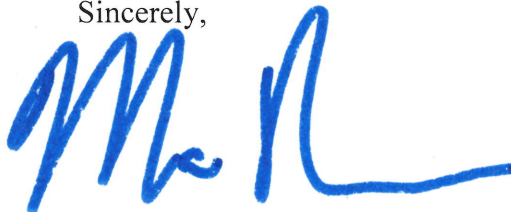
Dear Mr. President:

It has been eight days since Florida was devastated by Hurricane Matthew, a category three hurricane. While we were fortunate the storm did not shift further west, sparing us from its strongest winds, many in my home state returned to homes that were flooded or had roof damage, and millions were left without electricity. While I applaud your decision to quickly approve an emergency declaration, as well as a major disaster declaration, I urge you to immediately approve Individual Assistance for seven counties, as the state of Florida has requested.

I saw firsthand the devastation this major hurricane has caused to northeast Florida. I met with Floridians who were forced out of their homes and had to stay in hotels or with family or friends. I also spoke with many others who do not have those options or the resources to leave their homes while they are damaged and unsafe to live in. I spoke to homeowners who lost everything, and others who are optimistic about the recovery but require assistance. The road to making my constituents whole again will be a long one. It will take communities coming together, but it will also require government at all levels to work for them.

Therefore, I write in full support of the state of Florida's request for Individual Assistance to be granted to the following counties: Brevard, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia. I also request this be approved immediately, so survivors of Hurricane Matthew can fully start the difficult process of recovering from the storm.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator