

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

We write to express our gratitude for the work the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has done to assist with the recovery process in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. The restoration of telecommunications infrastructure is critical in order for families and friends on the island to communicate with each other during this difficult time. While the recovery process is ongoing, we urge the FCC to continue to work with the Puerto Rico Telecommunications Regulatory Board (PRTRB) in addressing restoration and connectivity issues across the island.

As you know, Hurricane Maria made landfall more than four months ago, causing unprecedented destruction to the island's telecom infrastructure. Reports indicate that 92 percent of cell sites and 67 percent of wireline services have been restored, but residents still face significant challenges, including data and power outages. The FCC plays a critical role and has the expertise and resources available to assist with the restoration process. In recognizing this, we ask that the FCC coordinate with the PRTRB in deciding how best, and with what resources are appropriate, to restore cable and wireline services to Puerto Rican families.

The ability to communicate with friends and loved ones is critical in the aftermath of a major storm. We strongly urge you to consider the unique challenges residents on the island continue to face, and work closely with the government of Puerto Rico to expedite the restoration of telecommunications services.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator