

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

September 8, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

As you know, Hurricane Irma is expected to make landfall in United States mainland this weekend. This historically powerful storm is currently forecast to have potentially devastating impacts on communities throughout Florida. I urge your department to begin preparations to bring together federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute illegal activity related to Hurricane Irma and the storm's aftermath. I also ask that the department supports state and local law enforcement requests for assistance regarding the storm.

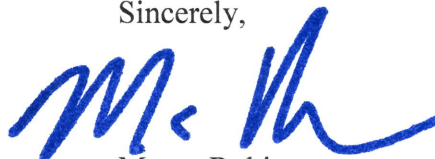
Unfortunately, a storm of this magnitude is expected to bring human, financial, and economic loss to communities throughout the state, but particularly in South Florida. While we continue to hope and pray for the best, we must be prepared for the worst. Law enforcement professionals in Florida have a strong history of working together to solve the problems facing our communities and our state, and I have full confidence that they will meet the challenges this storm may bring.

Floridians are kind people, good neighbors, and standup citizens. They will help one another at any sign of distress. However, we must ensure that bad actors are not taking advantage of what could prove to be a disaster situation, and that law enforcement agencies are working in the most efficient and effective manner possible to protect against criminal activity in the wake of the storm, including but not limited to identity theft, fraudulent insurance claims, fraudulent solicitations of charitable donations, property theft, unscrupulous contractors and looting. In addition, Florida is home to many seniors. Special attention must be paid to guard against scams that specifically target our most vulnerable.

As mandatory evacuations continue to be issued in South Florida, I ask your department to take urgent action to ensure that communities in Florida can count on the full support of the U.S. Department of Justice in preventing and responding to criminal activity following the storm.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator