

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
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SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

October 10, 2018

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

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

As you know, Hurricane Michael is expected to make landfall in Florida's panhandle today. This powerful storm is currently forecasted to have devastating impacts on Florida's communities. In anticipation, I urge the Department of Justice to work with federal, state, and local law enforcement to prepare to investigate and prosecute illegal activity related to Hurricane Michael and its aftermath.

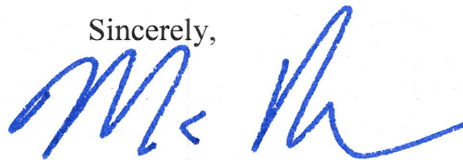
Law enforcement professionals in Florida have a strong history of working together in post-disaster recovery and response efforts, and I have complete confidence that they will meet the challenges this storm may bring. As such, I ask the department to promptly respond to requests raised by state and local law enforcement for assistance related to the storm.

While we know the overwhelming majority of Floridians are outstanding citizens, we must ensure that bad actors are not exploiting those left vulnerable after a disaster. These criminals target storm victims in multiple ways, including identity theft, fraudulent insurance claims, fraudulent solicitations of charitable donations, property theft, price gouging, unscrupulous contractors, and looting. Special attention must be paid to protect the hundreds of thousands of seniors that call Florida home, and who are often targeted and scammed in these situations.

As the Florida panhandle braces for Hurricane Michael, I request the Department of Justice to appropriately assist communities adversely affected by this storm.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator