

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
September 13, 2017

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

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 Third Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator McMahon:

With Hurricane Irma leaving great destruction in its wake across Florida, the Small Business Administration (SBA) will play an essential role in helping Florida's businesses and families get back on their feet. Because millions of people in the state are still without access to power or the internet, it is crucial that the SBA establishes a physical presence, including Business Recovery Centers, in affected areas as soon as possible. We write to express the urgency of this request given the dire situation on the ground and identify opportunities to maximize the effectiveness of SBA's relief efforts.

Because of Hurricane Irma's unprecedented size, nearly every part of my state has experienced disruptions to physical and communications infrastructure. With millions of Florida businesses and families struggling to contact anyone, it is incumbent upon state and federal officials to make relief known in the most accessible way possible. In affected areas across the state and particularly in Monroe County, a physical presence is needed immediately. We ask that as the SBA sets up these centers, your team clearly coordinates with the Florida's congressional delegation and local communities to decide where Business Recovery Centers will be the most feasible and prioritize the communities that were hit the hardest.

We stand ready to work with you to serve Florida's workers and help them recover as quickly as possible from this natural disaster.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator