



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Jr.
Majority Leader of the Senate
S-230 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader of the Senate
S-221 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
H-204 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Stacy E. Plaskett
Member
US House of Representatives
331 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Majority Leader, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Democratic Leader, Ms. Democratic Leader and Delegate Plaskett:

On behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, we are grateful for your concern and dedication to our recovery from the catastrophic damages done by the two back-to-back Category 5 hurricanes that hit us a month ago. As summarized below, after a comprehensive and thoughtful examination of our damages and recovery requirements, we believe that disaster assistance and support of approximately \$5.5 billion would enable the Territory to address the most essential needs of American citizens residing in the US Virgin Islands.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria came a mere 12 days apart. These storms brought winds of up to 200+ mph and over 20 inches of rain that turned our green hillsides nearly black, stripped away leaves and ripped massive trees out by their roots. Power lines are strewn across our roads; utility poles snapped in half like matchsticks; boats lie sunken in the harbors; many thousands of our homes stand heavily damaged or destroyed and some of our major road systems are impassable.

Over 100,000 of our residents have been affected by the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. Many structures on our beautiful islands are gone, reduced to rubble by the tremendous force of these back-to-back Category 5 storms. Both of our hospitals and the appurtenant health facilities, four schools, two fire stations, a police station, and much of our

infrastructure have been destroyed. The terminals at the Cyril E. King and Henry Rohlsen airports are heavily damaged. Many government offices are unusable, facilities of the judicial and legislative branches have been damaged and governmental operations have been drastically impacted and reduced by the hurricanes. There is no power on St. John and very limited power on St. Thomas and St. Croix. Virtually all of the power distribution infrastructure was destroyed, and most telephone lines are down and cellular towers destroyed. Most homes, hotels, and resorts are either destroyed or substantially damaged. We are at the U.S. government's mercy.

In addition to the physical destruction, the USVI economy has ground to a near standstill. Very few businesses are operating, and those that have reopened have done so at highly-reduced levels compared to where they were prior to these destructive storms. Many private sector employees cannot return to work. Furthermore, damages of this magnitude will subject our government to unsustainable cash shortfalls that will have a serious impact on the delivery of critical health and safety services.

Our recovery from these hurricanes will be a long and difficult process – and one that begins with an understanding of the damage that the hurricanes left behind. We have now completed a detailed sector-by-sector, island-by-island, assessment of the damages across the territory. We are providing this data using the best available information, which has been validated by some of the federal agencies collaborating with us here.

USVI Government Request

Government, Public Sector and Housing Needs	\$4.7 billion
Housing	\$1.36 billion
Education	\$715 million
Energy	\$680 million
Government Facilities	\$275 million
Transportation	\$155 million
Hospitals & Healthcare	\$115 million
Telecommunications	\$80 million
Other Government Sectors	\$55 million
Public Resilience Measures	\$300 million
Ongoing Emergency Response Activities	\$1.0 billion
Governmental Financial and Revenue Losses	\$800 million
Government General Fund	\$450 million
Other Governmental Components & Authorities	\$350 million
Total	\$5.5 billion

In addition to the costs to rebuild the U.S. Virgin Islands, we have also calculated the economic losses to our key industries, including tourism, at more than \$2.0 billion and damages to commercial facilities at over \$500 million. Accordingly, we intend to make extra efforts to

October 12, 2017

Page 3

reinvigorate our economic drivers as expeditiously as possible in order to be able to make substantive contributions of our own to our recovery.

We respectfully request that Congress give due consideration to this analysis as it deliberates the total funding package for hurricane response and recovery for what has already been a difficult season for many U.S. States and Territories. We understand that federal relief funds are an extremely precious resource and we are fully committed to carrying out our recovery in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. Our federal partners are supporting our recovery efforts, but we need your help to do what is essential

All of us are working night and day to help restore critical services across the U.S. Virgin Islands, and with your support we will rebuild a more resilient territory. As we set out on the long path to rebuilding and recovery, I ask for your kind consideration and once again thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor

cc: The Honorable Myron D. Jackson
President, 32nd Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands

The Honorable Rhys S. Hodge
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands