

FRANCIS ROONEY

19TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

120 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2536

3299 TAMiami TRAIL EAST, SUITE 105  
NAPLES, FL 34112  
(239) 252-6225

1039 SE 9TH AVENUE, SUITE 308  
CAPE CORAL, FL 33990  
(239) 599-6033

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0919

September 18, 2017

The Honorable Justo Hernández  
Federal Coordinating Officer (4337-DR-FL)  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341

The Honorable Bryan Koon  
Director  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Mr. Hernández and Mr. Koon,

We are grateful for the efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Florida in response to Hurricane Irma. Every level of government is providing an around the clock effort on behalf of the people of Florida and others affected by the hurricane.

We write in support of Collier County's request for a Direct Federal Assistance mission to assign the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist with extensive debris management. Due to Hurricane Irma's severe winds and storm surge, many areas of Collier County were left with substantial quantities of vegetative and disaster-related debris. Removal of debris and restoration of critical infrastructure and public service is essential to protect the citizens of Collier County.

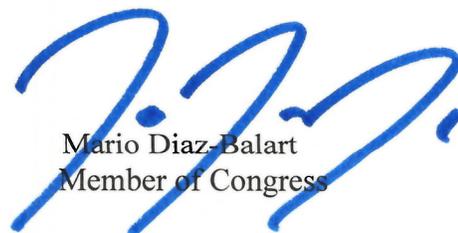
As safety is a primary concern, debris is hindering first responders and is a direct threat to safety and public health. Furthermore, this natural disaster has only heightened the threat of mosquito infestation. The current debris is a breeding ground for the Aedes Aegyptim mosquito, the major carrier of the Zika Virus.

Thank you again for your assistance in this natural disaster and recovery effort. We respectfully ask that you grant the Direct Federal Assistance mission request.

Sincerely,



Francis Rooney  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress