

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 27, 2019

The Honorable Ben Carson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20410

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable Pete T. Gaynor  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Director  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Carson, Secretary Perry, Acting Administrator Gaynor, and Director Mulvaney:

We write to urge the publication of the Federal Register Notice detailing the administrative requirements for the disbursement of the \$2 billion Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) appropriated to improve and increase the resilience of the power grids in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. On February 9, 2018, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (PL 115-123) was enacted into law. However, more than a year after enactment of the Act, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has failed to publish the Federal Register Notice to disburse the CDBG-DR funds needed to rebuild resilient power grids in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The \$2 billion in CDBG-DR HUD funding is meant to enhance and improve the electrical power systems in areas damaged by Hurricane Maria. In order for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to gain access to the appropriated funds, HUD must first publish a Federal Register Notice of administrative requirements. However, nearly a year and a half after the Bipartisan Budget Act was passed, HUD has failed to provide the required notice. Without the publication of the Federal Register Notice, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will be unable to adequately establish action plans for the reconstruction of the electrical grids.

On April 11, 2019, Governor Ricardo Rossello signed S.B. 1121, Puerto Rico Energy Public Policy Act, into law. The purpose of this legislation is to transition Puerto Rico's energy generation to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Through the Puerto Rico Electrical Power Authority (PREPA), Puerto Rico is striving to use \$900 million of their appropriated CDBG-DR HUD funding to rebuild the grid with a focus on the generation and distribution of renewable power.<sup>1</sup> With the current high cost and unpredictability of power generation and distribution on the islands, the

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<sup>1</sup> House Natural Resources Committee, "Full Committee Hearing: The Status of the Rebuilding and Privatization of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority," <https://naturalresources.house.gov/hearings/the-status-of-the-rebuilding-and-privatization-of-the-puerto-rico-electric-power-authority-prepa1>

disbursement of the \$2 billion in CDBG-DR HUD funding is essential to meet the goals of the Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands governments to alleviate power grid burdens.

Therefore, we urge the immediate publication of the Federal Register Notice detailing the administrative requirements for the disbursement of the \$2 billion in CDBG-DR HUD funding to rebuild resilient, enhanced power grids in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We must strive to enable the prosperity of our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands by providing renewable, affordable, resilient, and reliable power. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

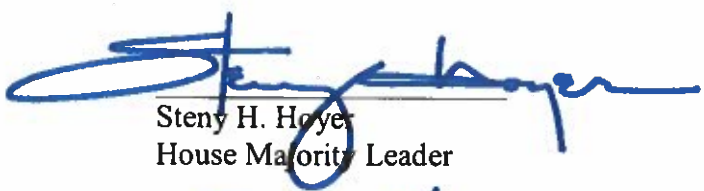
Sincerely,



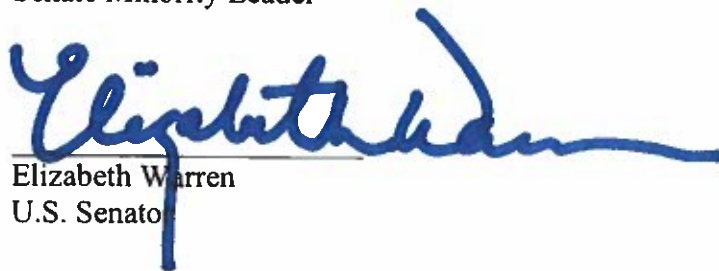
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



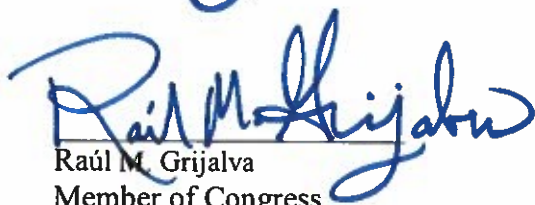
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Senate Minority Leader



Steny H. Hoyer  
House Majority Leader



Elizabeth Warren  
U.S. Senator



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senator



Jenniffer González-Colón  
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Bernard Sanders  
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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



Kamala D. Harris  
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Kirsten Gillibrand  
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U.S. Senator



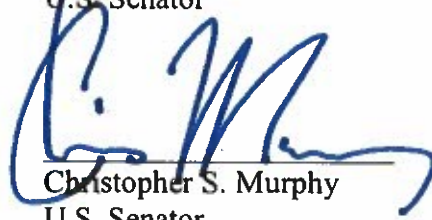
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker  
U.S. Senator




John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Christopher S. Murphy  
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Gregory W. Meeks  
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U.S. Senator



Adriano Espaillat  
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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



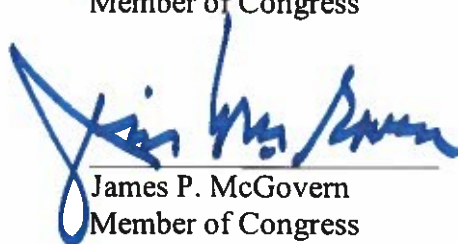
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



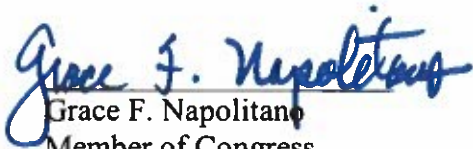
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
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Yvette D. Clarke  
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Al Green  
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Donna Shalala  
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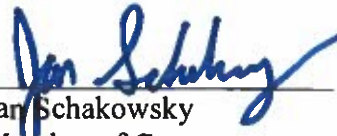
Albio Sires  
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