

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 13, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Carson:

Some of us wrote to you last Tuesday, January 7th, demanding the immediate and urgent publication of a Federal Register Notice (FRN) detailing the administrative requirements for the disbursement of the \$8.3 billion in Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) appropriated in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (PL 115-123).¹ For days now, thousands of Puerto Rican families are sleeping and living in outside tents because they are too afraid to sleep inside their houses or unsecured refuges due to last week's 6.4 magnitude earthquake and the aftershocks that followed.²

It has been more than two years since Hurricane Maria and Irma made landfall on the island. However, Puerto Rico has not been able to move forward with reconstruction of the island and provide adequate and secure housing for its residents because the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has illegally withheld the funds that Congress appropriated for these purposes.

Due to the new emergency at hand and the urgency of the situation, we are officially requesting an in-person meeting. It is your responsibility as Secretary of HUD to provide members of Congress an explanation as to why your Department has chosen to violate the law by withholding these critical resources. Puerto Ricans have waited too long. Members of Congress have given HUD more than enough time and HUD has disregarded the explicit deadlines established by law to publish the FRN. It is time we are provided with real answers and a definite date for the disbursement of the CDBG-DR funds for the island.

Congresswoman Velázquez will make the accommodations necessary to set up this meeting with the members. Please provide us with your availability to meet as soon as possible.

¹ See Section 21101.

² Leyla Santiago, Faith Karimi & Nicole Chavez, Puerto Rican residents sleeping outside as aftershocks rock region hit by deadly earthquake, *available at* <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/08/us/puerto-rico-earthquake-wednesday/index.html>.


Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senator



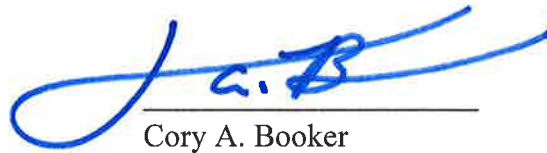
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
U.S. Senator



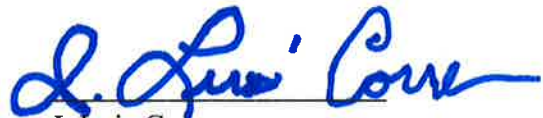
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



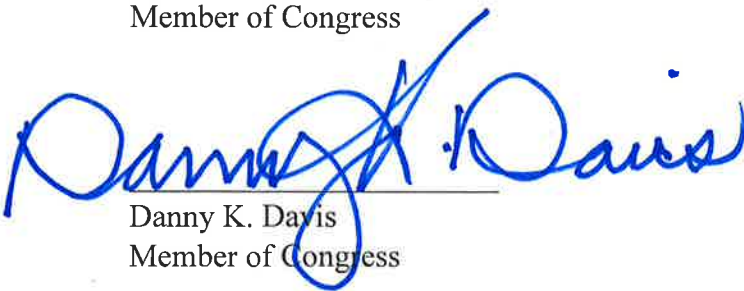
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



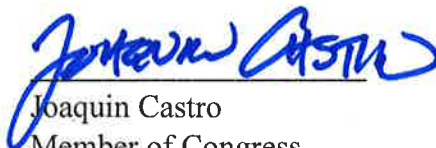
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



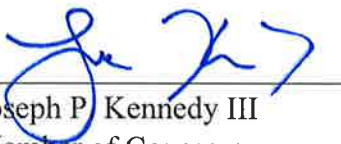
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



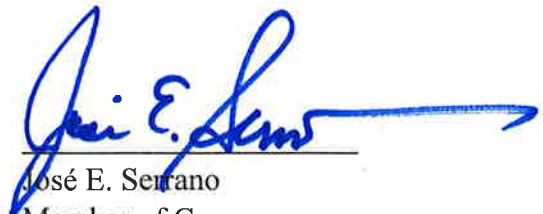
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



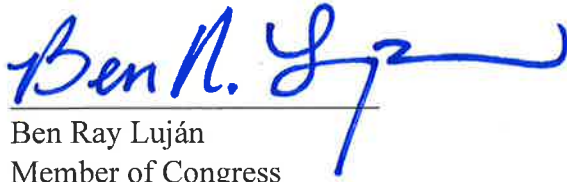
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



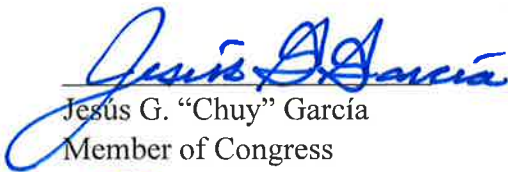
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



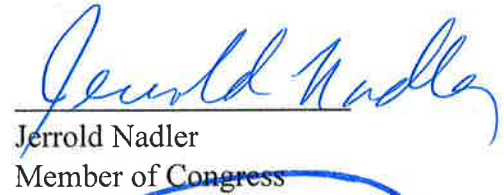
Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



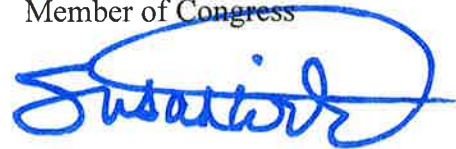
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



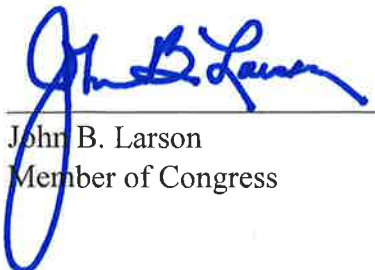
Susan Wild
Member of Congress




Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
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Alexia Ocasio-Cortez

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop

Sanford D. Bishop
Member of Congress

Joseph D. Morelle

Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

André Carson

André Carson
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Adam Smith

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Bill Foster

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

cc: Director Mick Mulvaney
Office of Management and Budget 7
57 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20053



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress