

JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN
Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-2615 FAX: (202) 225-2154

SAN JUAN OFFICE:
157 AVENIDA DE LA CONSTITUCIÓN
ANTONIO EDIFICIO DE MEDICINA TROPICAL
SEGUNDO PISO
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00901
(787) 723-6333 FAX: (787) 729-7738

COMMITTEES:
NATURAL RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5400

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Administrator McMahon,

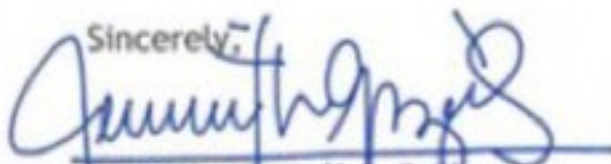
The following letter is to request your assistance with identifying loans, programs and funds that can be obtained through the Small Business Administration to help the island as it recovers from the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

As you are probably aware, on September 20, President Trump issued a major disaster declaration for Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria. Puerto Rico has not experienced a hurricane of this magnitude in its modern history. As a category 4 by the time it made landfall, it swept through the island with winds of approximately 155 mph leaving behind a path of widespread devastation. But Puerto Ricans are strong. The island has united and has demonstrated tremendous resilience and character. Their display of courage and strength while facing this challenge makes me extremely proud, both as their representative in Congress and as a fellow Puerto Rican.

However, we cannot do this alone. We need help from Congress and federal agencies to assist our timely recovery. Through the Office of Disaster Assistance (ODA), the Small Business Administration (SBA) provides loans that assist recovery efforts from natural disasters for home and business owners. After Hurricane Irma, SBA extended eligibility for Disaster Loans to four municipalities in Puerto Rico; Canóvanas, Culebra, Loíza and Vieques, and Economic Injury Loans to five municipalities; Carolina, Gurabo, Juncos, Las Piedras and Río Grande. These loans have a direct impact on the recovery of my constituents.

Moreover, I would like to respectfully request that your agency extends eligibility for Hurricane Maria as well and increases the number of grantees considering the scope of the damage that was suffered by the 78 municipalities of the island, in addition to identifying avenues in which SBA can provide any funding or support for restoring businesses and helping homeowners in Puerto Rico. Economic and financial aid is of the essence as we continue to move forward and carve a successful path to recovery. It is critical that Puerto Rico is prioritized considering the extent to the damages and that all relief programs and resources available are fully extended to the island and its 3.4 million U.S. citizens. Please do not hesitate to contact my Congressional Office should you identify ways in which we can help with accommodating this request.

Sincerely,



Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress