



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

January 8, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Carson:

I'm writing to thank you for the initial Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds allocated to Florida as recovery efforts in the state continue. The first \$616 million distributed to Florida will be critical in aiding the state's reconstruction from damages sustained due to Hurricane Irma.

However, I understand Florida may receive additional CDBG-DR assistance through future supplemental aid packages. As Congress approves more CDBG funds, I urge you to consider the wide-ranging unmet needs of Floridians trying to repair their homes back to some semblance of what they had prior to the storm.

In particular, I'd like to highlight the importance of repairs to residents' seawalls. Many Floridians and local governments in southwest Florida experienced extensive damages to their seawalls, structures that serve as protection from erosion and flooding to coastal properties. The damages sustained to these seawalls threaten waterside structures in the likely event of more storms during next year's hurricane season.

As Florida prepares for another potentially destructive hurricane season less than six months away, we must arrange for the availability of more CDBG-DR funds towards vulnerable Florida structures, such as seawalls, that did not qualify for initial types of post-hurricane assistance.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson