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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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September 5, 2019

SHALANDA YOUNG
CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This month marks the second anniversary of the landfall of Hurricanes Maria and Irma. It also marks one year since the landfall of Hurricane Florence. Yet, despite supplemental appropriations approved by Congress and enacted into law to help states and territories recover, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has yet to make this funding available for necessary recovery and mitigation efforts.

This delay is especially concerning with respect to affected grantees impacted by Hurricanes Maria and Irma. More than 18 months have passed since Congress provided supplemental disaster relief for these grantees under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief program. Meanwhile, nearly 11 months have passed since Congress provided additional relief for grantees impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, wildfires, and other major disasters.

In response, Congress included a provision (Section 1102) in the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (P.L. 116-20)—signed into law by the President on June 6, 2019—requiring you to publish allocations and administrative requirements for mitigation activities for all eligible grantees included in P.L. 115-123 (this includes states and territories impacted by Maria and Irma) within 90 days. The 90-day period expired on September 4, 2019.

On August 30, 2019, the Department published allocations and administrative requirements for California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia in the Federal Register. On September 4, 2019, HUD posted a subsequent notice for the U.S. Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico was not included in either notice. By failing to publish

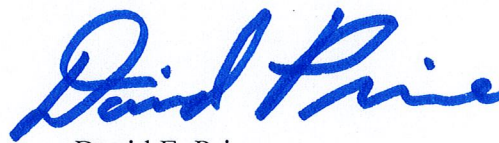
administrative requirements for all eligible grantees on or before September 4, the Department violated the requirements of Section 1102.

The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies subcommittee will be holding a hearing on this matter in the coming weeks. Please work with my staff to make appropriate witnesses available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nita M. Lowey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

David E. Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
and Related Agencies