

NEAL P. DUNN, MD
2ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0902

840 WEST 11TH STREET
SUITE 2250
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401
(850) 785-0812

300 SOUTH ADAMS STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301
(850) 891-8610

423 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5235

September 12, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C 20500

Dear Mr. President:

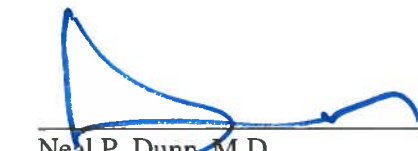
We write to you today to seek your assistance in fast-tracking recovery and rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Irma by waiving federal contractor selection requirements.

Right now the counties we represent are conducting damage assessment processes and preparing applications for the Public Assistance Program funds you released for Hurricane Irma recovery. While municipalities tirelessly work to rebuild infrastructure and restore critical services, the risks to public health and safety do not permit delays resulting from federal red-tape. For this reason, we respectfully request your Administration exercise its authority to temporarily waive federal contractor selection requirements in 44 CFR 13.36 (b) through (i), which prohibit local preference in contracting and discourage execution of pre-disaster/stand-by and sole-source contracts, or existing contracts. Given your experience as a builder, you understand that these contracting strategies may, in exigent circumstances, save taxpayer dollars and valuable recovery time. In addition, emergency contracting procedures would not preclude cost or price analysis to determine the reasonableness of the contract price.

Waiver of federal contractor selection requirements is not unprecedented. During the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season, Hurricanes Charley, Francis, Ivan, and Jeanne battered Florida between August 13, 2004, and September 26, 2004. Acknowledging the need for emergency contracting procedures to address the widespread and severe crippling of infrastructure that occurred, the Federal Emergency Management Agency waived these contracting requirements for numerous applicants. However, the waivers were inconsistently granted, which left some recipients faced with the hardship of reimbursing millions of dollars of federal assistance years later.

Clearing debris, repairing damaged infrastructure and resuming essential public services in a timely manner is critical to public health and safety. Thank you for your consideration of our request to affirmatively and consistently provide grantees and sub-grantees of Public Assistance funds in Florida with authority to exercise emergency contracting procedures in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Sincerely,



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros- Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



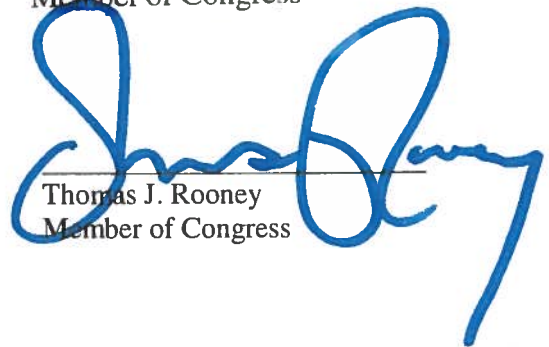
John Rutherford
Member of Congress



Ted Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress