



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

January 18, 2019

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

Through: Gracia B. Szczech, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

RE: Request for Modified Cost Share
Hurricane Michael

Dear Mr. President:

On October 11, 2018, you granted a request for the declaration of a Major Disaster in the State of Florida due to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Michael. On Wednesday, January 16, FEMA Administrator Brock Long joined me in the region to see the recovery effort and to stress the importance of more resources and support in this long recovery process. It was my second trip to the Panhandle since taking office to see firsthand the continued impacts of Hurricane Michael on the region and Floridians. We are three months removed from Hurricane Michael and the emergency remains.

As you know, Hurricane Michael was the third-most intense Atlantic hurricane to make landfall in the United States. The Panhandle experienced a high-end Category 4 Hurricane with winds sustained at 155 mph. Homes and businesses were completely swept away off their foundations. Entire neighborhoods no longer exist. Thousands of homes were rendered uninhabitable. Debris remains pervasive and thousands of businesses are still struggling to reopen.

Current predictions and assessments estimate \$1.5 billion in losses to Florida's agriculture industry and over \$2.6 billion in losses to properties and businesses. State agencies alone estimate that we have spent over \$1 billion in debris removal and emergency protective measures to-date.

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I am committed to utilizing all state resources to support the recovery effort. Most recently, I directed \$2.8 million in matching funds for debris removal in Mexico Beach, which is ground zero for Hurricane Michael recovery. I also directed our Director of the Division of Emergency Management to allow for the advance of federal reimbursement dollars and deploy additional staff to assist Hurricane Michael victims and affected communities obtain state and federal grants.

Ultimately disaster recovery requires a partnership between local, state and federal officials to make communities whole. To that end, in order to speed-up the process and ensure the recovery effort is robust, I respectfully request a modification of the Federal cost share. Under 44 C.F.R. § 206.47(b), an increase in the Federal cost share is recommended when a disaster is so extraordinary that actual Federal obligations meet or exceed the threshold. I am confident that the Federal obligations will exceed the threshold, and therefore, I ask that the cost share be increased to 90% of the eligible cost of permanent work under section 406 and emergency work under sections 403 and 407.

I also request that under 44 C.F.R. § 206.47(d), FEMA provide 100% Federal cost share for Categories A and B (debris removal and emergency protective measures) for the first 45 days from landfall, with an agreement to provide 90% Federal cost share for these Categories thereafter.

I have designated Jared Moskowitz, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, as the State Coordinating Officer for our continued response and recovery from Hurricane Michael. He is authorized to provide any further information, assurances, requests or justifications on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Ron DeSantis
Governor