



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
JIMMY PATRONIS
STATE OF FLORIDA

April 25, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

It has been six months since Hurricane Michael made landfall as a Category 5 storm, devastating the Florida Panhandle. After impact, a way of life was completely shattered. Homes were lost, businesses destroyed, and families were uncertain how to pick up the pieces and begin down the hard path of recovery and rebuilding. I should not have to remind people of this simple fact, but it often seems as though most of our country has unfortunately forgotten.

The impact of this storm is overwhelming: \$6.2 billion in insured losses across 15 affected counties (compared to \$11 billion in insured losses for Hurricane Irma in 49 affected counties); according to reports, Bay District Schools has lost a reported 30 percent of its student population; over eighty percent of the tree cover at the Florida Caverns State Park in Jackson County was obliterated; hospitals are still not operating at full capacity; and 20 million cubic tons of debris and 72 million tons of fallen trees across affected counties, increasing fire and flooding risks.

It is unthinkable that partisan politics and self-interest has obstructed federal disaster recovery funding, especially considering the magnitude of the destruction. However, it seems that politics, rather than the needs of the people of the Panhandle, are driving decision making: Congress passed an aid package worth \$11.1 billion less than one month after Hurricane Andrew in 1992; Congress approved an additional \$51.8 billion relief and recovery 10 days after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 (in addition to the \$10.4 billion approved four days after landfall); and Congress approved a disaster relief bill totaling approximately \$50 billion 74 days after Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Nearly 200 days have passed since Hurricane Michael forever changed this area and yet, Congress refuses to act.

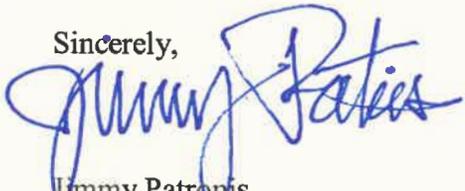
I invite you to come down to one of the counties in Florida impacted by Hurricane Michael and see the long hours these communities have put into rebuilding. You will see a resilient and strong community, but one that is fed up with being in the middle of a partisan political fight. As Florida's Chief Financial Officer and a Panama City native, it breaks my heart to know that families are still suffering, and it infuriates me to know that those who can help fix it are using these families as bargaining chips. I have served as a legislator and know the role you have to represent your constituents. This funding is the right thing to do for the area, the state and our nation.

Northwest Florida residents pay taxes, show up to work, and contribute to our economic stability. As a "Donor State" we send the federal government more in taxes than we take for the federal programs which serve Floridians. Therefore, the funding we are requesting is ultimately the money of the hardworking taxpayers of Florida.

It's time to step up and show the people of Northwest Florida you believe in their worth; the worth of people and an area often overlooked, but one that should never be cruelly forgotten. I refuse to allow Hurricane Michael to become the "forgotten" hurricane.

Feel free to contact me directly to schedule time to tour the area. My personal cell phone number is included on the post card enclosed in this letter.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida



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STATE OF FLORIDA

April 25, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Russell Senate Office Building
317 Delaware Ave NE
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

It has been six months since Hurricane Michael made landfall as a Category 5 storm, devastating the Florida Panhandle. After impact, a way of life was completely shattered. Homes were lost, businesses destroyed, and families were uncertain how to pick up the pieces and begin down the hard path of recovery and rebuilding. I should not have to remind people of this simple fact, but it often seems as though most of our country has unfortunately forgotten.

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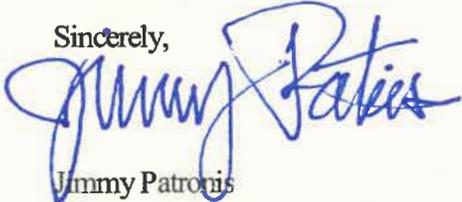
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April 25, 2019

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Minority Leader Schumer:

It has been six months since Hurricane Michael made landfall as a Category 5 storm, devastating the Florida Panhandle. After impact, a way of life was completely shattered. Homes were lost, businesses destroyed, and families were uncertain how to pick up the pieces and begin down the hard path of recovery and rebuilding. I should not have to remind people of this simple fact, but it often seems as though most of our country has unfortunately forgotten.

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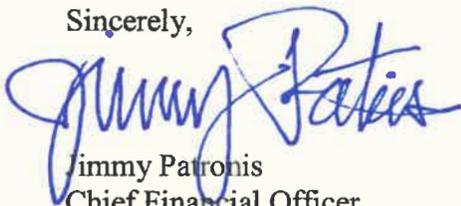
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April 25, 2019

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Minority Leader McCarthy:

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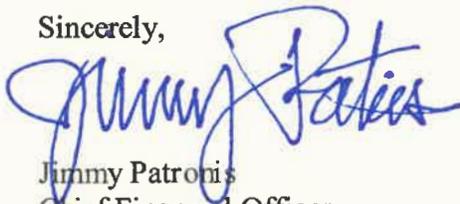
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