



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
JIMMY PATRONIS
STATE OF FLORIDA

March 18, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

As you know, throughout America's history the U.S. Treasury has sold billions of dollars in U.S. Savings Bonds to support our great country, many of which were purchased by our Greatest Generation to aid in the fight against evil. More than \$26 billion worth of bonds are now fully matured but remain unclaimed by the bond owners or heirs. In Florida, that includes approximately \$1 billion in long-ago matured U.S. savings bonds in the Treasury's custody, but our hands are tied without swift federal action.

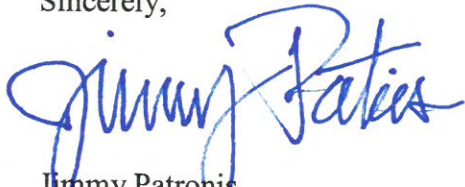
For more than 60 years the Treasury has kept these funds, rather than making them available to owners through our record-breaking state unclaimed property program. Recently, states had been making progress with the Treasury in their ongoing, collective efforts to recover and make these long-dormant funds available to the citizens to whom they belong. Unfortunately, in a surprise move by the Obama Administration, the Treasury added yet another roadblock with new regulations requiring a state to first physically possess a missing or abandoned bond before it could ever make the funds available to the owner. In Florida, our unclaimed property program has returned \$575.6 million since July 2017, breaking the record for most given back in a single year in our program's fifty-year history. My mission is to return every cent back to rightful owners. The 2015 policy put in place, though, has effectively shut down pro-consumer efforts as, in most cases, the actual U.S. Savings Bond certificate has been forgotten, lost, stolen or destroyed, preventing us from returning money owed.

We can't let an Obama-era regulation stop us from reuniting this money with the men and women who purchased these bonds to support our great nation, an action that is the very definition of patriotism. I'm asking that the federal government step in now and withdraw this burdensome regulation that blocks our Greatest Generation from having access to their money. Just like you, I firmly believe that Floridians spend their money better than the government does. My office stands ready to assist anyone from your administration on this issue and will work on ways to help solve this issue in the best interest of our World War II-era citizens.

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I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support of Northwest Florida following Hurricane Michael. This support has helped ensure the Florida Panhandle recovers and comes back stronger than ever. Over the course of your administration, I have witnessed first-hand how hard you advocate for the American people, and it is my hope you will consider this request that will help put money back into the hands of hardworking families. Thank you for all you do for the great state of Florida.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer