



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0917

September 3, 2023

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20472

Director Criswell,

This letter is to identify the essential need for FEMA to resolve outstanding requests with Hurricane Ian as your agency works on recovery from Hurricane Idalia. In my district, recovering from Hurricane Idalia requires your agency to continue and follow through on its obligation to provide the necessary funds to recover from Hurricane Ian. I would like to inquire specifically on the status of recovery efforts in Charlotte County, who was hit very hard by Ian and is currently doing preliminary assessments on what the recovery from Idalia will look like.

A year ago, Ian made landfall as a Category 5 Major Hurricane that cost the lives of 161 people and caused over \$1 billion in damages. My district is still deep in the recovery process. As Hurricane Idalia made landfall on the Big Bend of Florida as a Category 3 Major Hurricane on August 30th, 2023, my district once again finds itself in need of help from FEMA. Thankfully, it is not to the same extent as Hurricane Ian. However, the two recoveries are linked together.

Charlotte County has incurred significant expenses from Hurricane Ian and has gone to great lengths to work with state and federal officials to recover from the disaster. As the county is currently working on preliminary damage assessment numbers for Idalia, there is concern that they do not have the adequate funds to recover, due largely to having not yet received the appropriate FEMA money from Ian.

As I, and my office, have been in communication with both FEMA and Charlotte over the last year with Hurricane Ian recovery and now this past week on the early stages of recovering from Hurricane Idalia, I would like to inquire about the following information from Charlotte County on the status of their claims, and ask for you to provide steps that can be taken to resolve any of the following:

- **705680** - Expedited Category A, 100% reimbursement, Debris Removal
 - Estimated \$45M, Obligated 50% and receipted \$22.8M on 6/26/23
 - Current Status: Obligated 50% \$22M
- **705701** - Expedited Category A, 75% reimbursement Debris Removal (pending determination of SB4-A funding)

- Estimated \$38M (*still waiting for obligation and 50% disbursement*)
- Current Status: Phase II review as of 8/28/23
- **705683** - Expedited Category B, 100% reimbursement (changed to Standard Project on 7/31/23)
 - Estimated \$18M (still waiting for obligation and 50% disbursement)
 - Current Status: PDMG review
- **705702** - Expedited Category B Post 12/8 @ 75% reimbursement (pending determination of SB4-A funding)
 - Estimated \$5M (still waiting for obligation and 50% disbursement)
 - Current Status: IBD Infrastructure Branch Director review pending final obligation

While we agree the FEMA must ensure an effective and robust recovery from Hurricane Idalia, attention must still be paid to the victims and recovery of Hurricane Ian. The two are inseparable. Given the financial burden of not just Ian but now Idalia on Charlotte County, I ask FEMA to finish the necessary steps for my constituents to recover and be prepared for the next natural disaster.

I appreciate FEMA's efforts to serve Americans in need after disaster, as well as your attention to this issue. I look forward to hearing from you on steps to take to complete the recovery process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Gregory Steube', written in a cursive style.

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress