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12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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December 24, 2024

Adrienne Todman, Acting Secretary
Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Acting Secretary Todman:

I am writing in support of Pasco County's request, dated December 10, 2024, for a direct allocation of funding from the HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery fund. As you know, Pasco County received a direct impact from both Hurricane Helen and Hurricane Milton, which devastated highly populated areas of Pasco. As the county outlined in their letter, 447,917 cubic yards of debris have been collected since November 26, 2024. While now classified as debris, those items once represented the properties, livelihoods, histories, and futures of our residents.

With the recent passage of an emergency supplemental, which included \$12 billion in the Community Planning and Development Fund specifically outlined to help localities recover from disasters, I strongly believe that Pasco County meets the necessary criteria to be considered for a direct allocation to rebuild their significantly damaged areas. As an added assurance that any allocation will be a good investment of federal resources, Pasco County has already outlined how they will be a good steward of taxpayer funds through their detailed plan to rebuild. This includes strategies for housing development and repairs; stormwater improvements; and economic development plans for impacted small businesses. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support Pasco County's request for direct funding from the HUD-DR program, during this difficult time in the County's history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress