

January 16, 2020
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about Puerto Rico. Your administration has failed to rebuild from the twin 2017 hurricanes and now there is also earthquake damage. You have given generous unaudited aid to some: tax havens, redefined development zones for upscale developers, 30 billion to bail out farmers from your tariff wars and at least hundreds of millions for your own travel (which Secretary Mnuchin continues to hide). Others you have cut off: undermining the ACA and cutting food stamps for hundreds of thousands with food pantries already seeing a spike in need. Your litany of failure in Puerto Rico is a case in point. In 2017 FEMA funds were diverted to friends of your cabinet. You then held up congressional authorization. Finally 20 billion was authorized and you have held up dispersal for more than a year (bringing to mind Ukraine where the GAO found your nondispersal illegal). Now you are demanding burdensome bureaucracy as an excuse for further delays. As the climate changes such disasters will likely increase.

Please assure me that you will help rebuild Puerto Rico immediately.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our disaster response capability.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson