

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@dsgpr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov  
**Cc:** Byrne, Michael; Long, Brock  
**Subject:** FW: Vieques, Puerto Rico

Here is another sample. I know you have had a rough time in Houston but at least you had competent people in charge of the response. We have incompetent people in charge here and are getting no response to our urgent needs; first of all restoration of power. Please share this with Rep McCaul along with our urgent request for the committee on homeland security to convene hearings on the utter failure of the Federal response here and on the main island of Puerto Rico.

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**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 10:53 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Vieques, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Byrne:

I am writing to you from the island municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico and more specifically from the community of Esperanza, located on the southern coast. A visual estimate of our electric grid would indicate that at minimum seventy five percent of it has been destroyed, with that number being higher in the southern section. Without a source of regular power Vieques cannot rebuild, and in fact is in danger of further deterioration. With that deterioration there comes a host of other problems.

1. We have limited to no communications. Recently a car fire occurred in Esperanza and no one was able to call to report it. Without the grid no cell tower or landline is available. Internet service needs power and like it or not, this is the means of global communication.
2. We are unable to rebuild the physical infrastructure. Without the grid, power tools must be run from generators. Generators require gas. Our gas lines are in excess of 6 hours at times due to inconsistent delivery.
3. Our water system is currently run on emergency generators. The key word is here is "emergency". They are not designed to deliver water and remove sewage 24/7. They need regular power. Without potable water and proper sewage treatment, we will get sick. A sick population requires much more assistance than a healthy one.
4. Our jobs have disappeared because without power our economy is a dead economy. A population without employment is a dependent population.

Mr. Byrne, we need help. More than two months following Hurricane Maria, we are watching our local electric crews struggle to repair the system with no equipment and no material. We are hearing estimates that we will be one year without regular power. WHY?

We need you to have a plan that gives us a power source soon. We need you to tell us that plan. We need you to implement that plan. We need you to give us the tools so that we can sustain ourselves. That is the job of FEMA is it not?

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
Barrio Esperanza  
Vieques, PR 00765  
[REDACTED]