



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

September 27, 2017

The Honorable Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I request that you immediately authorize that Puerto Rico be permitted to receive ships without unnecessary restrictions so that emergency supplies can reach desperate Americans.

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria swept through our Nation with a fury like few other storms in our history. They caused an enormous amount of harm that will require significant resources to address the resulting horrific damage. Most importantly, these storms did not discriminate when choosing their victims; leaving a trail of destruction across Florida, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The Merchant Marine Act of 1920 (the Jones Act), which requires that all shipments between American ports occur by vessels built in America and owned and operated by Americans, has been and can be waived in cases of emergency. Specifically, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security waived the Jones Act for both Texas and Florida to ensure expeditious delivery of support and supplies to those states, but has refused to do so for Puerto Rico.

In light of the devastation inflicted by Hurricane Maria, there can be no doubt that the conditions in Puerto Rico constitute an emergency. I therefore call on you to immediately use your executive power to direct the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to waive the Jones Act for Puerto Rico. As I saw first-hand when I visited the Island on Friday, the people in Puerto Rico are pleading for support and it is up to you as the President to ensure that all Americans receive the help needed. We must waive the Jones Act and there is no time to delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Cuomo".

ANDREW M. CUOMO

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PERFORMANCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ PRIDE