



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joaquin Castro
U.S. House of Representatives
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Darren Soto
U.S. House of Representatives
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
U.S. House of Representatives
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James P. McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I am writing in response to your February 7 letter which requested an inquiry into whether delays in the release of emergency relief funds appropriated for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico violated the *Impoundment Control Act of 1974* (ICA). Thank you for your interest in our oversight work.

As noted in your letter, my office is currently conducting a review of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) administration of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds appropriated for Puerto Rico in response to Hurricanes Maria and Irma. The scope of our review focuses on HUD officials' decision-making and actions throughout the process of making these funds available to the designated grantee in Puerto Rico.



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Our review will gather evidence relevant to an analysis of whether a potential impoundment occurred. However, the ICA provides the Comptroller General with the exclusive authority to determine whether the Executive Branch violated the ICA in a given circumstance.¹ Accordingly, my office will report factually on the actions taken by HUD officials with respect to CDBG-DR funds appropriated for Puerto Rico, and the reasoning behind those decisions and actions. If we identify a potential violation of the ICA during our review, we will make an appropriate referral to the Comptroller General.

My staff is concluding our work in this review so that we can finalize and release our report publicly. My staff and I are available to provide a briefing on the report when it is final, and we will continue updating your staffs as we conclude our review. If you or your staffs have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me or Kathleen Hatcher, Director of Congressional Affairs, at 202-402-8323 or khatcher@hudoig.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rae Oliver Davis".

Rae Oliver Davis
Inspector General

¹ Impoundment Control Act of 1974 § 686.