

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 31, 2020

Pete T. Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

We are writing to seek information regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s planned response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the U.S. Territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI).

The U.S. Territories face unique COVID-19 challenges due to their geographic location, unequal treatment under federal programs, and dire financial situation. Most of the islands have recently been impacted by severe natural disasters - such as Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Irma, Super Typhoon Yutu, Super Typhoon Mangkhut, and the earthquakes in Puerto Rico - that have further weakened their health care infrastructure and limited their ability to effectively respond to new emergencies.

Last week, the President signed Major Disaster Declarations for Guam and Puerto Rico for additional support in the COVID-19 response. To assist the Committee's oversight of this emergency in the U.S. Territories, please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than April 15th:

1. What is your agency doing to ensure the U.S. Territories remain a top priority in FEMA's plan to address COVID-19?
2. What are FEMA's plans for addressing COVID-19 in the U.S. Territories given high rates of older adults and constrained health care resources?
3. Will FEMA work to establish the coordination of safe transportation of a presumptive or positive COVID-19 patient from a U.S. Territory facility to another facility equipped to treat a COVID-19 patient if necessary?

4. Is FEMA willing to waive funding match provisions for the U.S. Territories in need of immediate emergency federal aid to address COVID-19 cases?
5. What are FEMA's plans for ensuring the U.S. Territories have food in case there is a disruption in the maritime commerce or supply chain?
6. What are FEMA's plans to continue aiding individuals affected by prior disasters, such as hurricanes, typhoons and earthquakes?
7. Is FEMA considering deploying emergency power generators to hospitals and treatment centers in U.S. Territories with unreliable power infrastructure?

Given the evolving nature of this pandemic, we welcome a conference call with Members of the Committee as soon as feasible in response to this inquiry. Please contact Margarita Varela-Rosa with the Committee's Office of Insular Affairs at [Margarita.Varela-Rosa@mail.house.gov](mailto:Margarita.Varela-Rosa@mail.house.gov) or (202) 748-2828 with any questions about this request.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to a timely response.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chair  
Committee on Natural Resources



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress