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18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

September 6, 2019

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

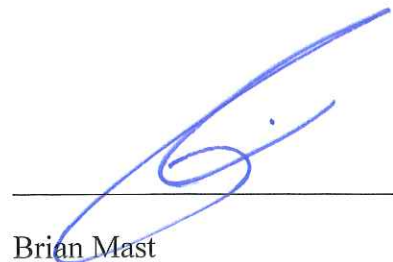
Dear Mr. President:

In the aftermath of the catastrophic Category 5 Hurricane Dorian, which battered the Bahamas for more than two days with high winds, heavy rain, and life-threatening storm surges, we respectfully urge your administration to expedite, waive, or suspend certain visa requirements for citizens of the Bahamas affected by the storm who are seeking shelter with relatives in the United States.

The United States and the Bahamas share a strong bilateral relationship with historically close economic ties and strong cooperation on reducing crime and mitigating migration issues. With the closest island less than 50 miles off the coast of Florida, there are approximately 20,000 Bahamians living in South Florida. This devastating hurricane has left so many without shelter, food, and clean water. As the Commonwealth of the Bahamas begins relief efforts, the United States government should help ensure that those who were left with nothing can easily seek shelter with their families in the United States. With the death toll continuing to rise, Floridians stand ready to assist our ally in the wake of this disaster.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and we look forward to working with your administration to assist the people of the Bahamas in the aftermath of this devastating hurricane.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast

Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy


Member of Congress



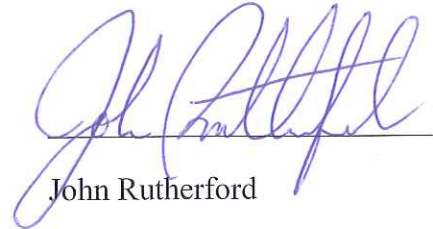
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



John Rutherford
Member of Congress



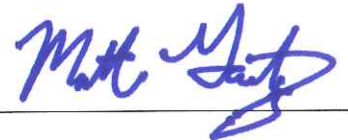
Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



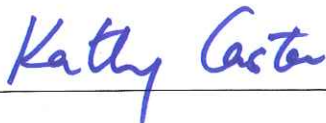
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan

Vern Buchanan

Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings

Member of Congress

Michael Waltz

Michael Waltz

Member of Congress

Darren Soto

Darren Soto

Member of Congress

Val B. Demings

Val B. Demings

Member of Congress