

Congressman Pablo José Hernández, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico

U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security
Remarks as Delivered by the Resident Commissioner

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

For weeks now, the administration has obstructed federal funding that Congress—funding that our communities, our first responders, and our emergency management systems depend on.

This isn't just political theater; it's a direct attack on public safety and national security, and nowhere is that clearer than in Puerto Rico.

We know the reality: Puerto Rico faces economic instability as a result of hurricanes, earthquakes, and power grid failures. We have seen time and again how delayed federal aid means devastation for families who cannot wait for Washington's dysfunction to be sorted out. FEMA grants, DHS security programs, and critical disaster preparedness funds are essential to keeping people safe, ensuring hospitals have backup power, and making sure first responders have the resources they need when the next emergency strikes.

Our fear is not hypothetical. Our fear is real. If a hurricane hit tomorrow, would our emergency response systems be fully operational? If another earthquake shakes our island, will hospitals have the power to keep people alive? Right now, because of the administration's reckless funding freeze, the answer is unclear. And that is unacceptable.

Last month, I met with local FEMA officials to discuss how federal funding supports emergency preparedness, disaster recovery, and infrastructure development. They need stability, not chaos from Washington.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 114 and demand accountability. We cannot play politics with disaster preparedness and public safety.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

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