



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

September 27, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Duke
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke:

I write to urge the Department of Homeland Security to use its waiver authority to temporarily exempt Puerto Rico from the requirement of the Jones Act while it recovers from the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria. The worsening humanitarian crisis on the island demands that all possible assistance be deployed by the federal government. Temporarily waiving the Jones Act would allow Puerto Rico greater access to essential fuel, food, medical supplies essential to their recovery effort.

While ports are currently closed, the federal government should leave no doubt that as those ports reopen, any vessel that can provide assistance to Puerto Rico would be allowed to provide assistance without delay. As the recovery effort is likely to last for months and even years, the restrictions the Jones Act puts into effect are an unnecessary obstacle to a robust and widespread relief effort that will assuredly be necessary.

There is no denying that Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Maria – the second major hurricane to impact the island this year. Entire communities have been displaced, leaving millions of our fellow citizens to suffer without power, water, food and other essential supplies. The State of Connecticut is assisting in the recovery, having already deployed National Guardsmen and equipment to the island while coordinating further assistance from other statewide public and private sources. We stand ready to do all we can to assist our brothers and sisters on the island. The Department waived the Jones Act requirements in response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. I urge that it be waived for Puerto Rico in response to Hurricane Maria.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dannel P. Malloy".

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor