

AL LAWSON
5TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0905

2437 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0123
(202) 225-2256 — FAX

CITY HALL
117 W. DUVAL STREET, SUITE 240
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202
(904) 354-1652
(904) 379-0309 — FAX

435 NORTH MACOMB STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301
(850) 558-9450
(850) 577-0633 — FAX

<http://www.lawson.house.gov>

June 10, 2022

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Criswell,

We write today to inform you of the dangerous supply chain shortages affecting Florida's electric cooperatives and municipalities. Labor shortages and competition from other industries for steel have made equipment procurement difficult. As a result, critical electric grid equipment delivery times have increased 20-fold in the past 2 years. Transformers, the most integral pieces in ensuring electricity to homes, took only 3 months to be delivered in 2018. Currently, delivery delays for transformers are averaging 52 to 75 months, and some manufacturers are not even taking orders.

This is particularly concerning given that the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season is forecasted to produce hurricanes and tropical storms of above-average strength. As the onset of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season approaches, we urge FEMA to mitigate this issue before a severe hurricane or tropical storm devastates our Floridian communities.

Each year, Florida electric cooperatives and municipalities prepare for the upcoming hurricane season by stockpiling supplies. When disasters occur, destroyed equipment needs to be replaced to ensure quick power restoration. The severe delay of critical parts has made this preparation nearly impossible, leaving many electric companies without reserves. It would take only one hurricane or severe tropical storm to cause devastating damage to our constituents, and with the absence of a stockpile, power restoration for these communities would take substantially longer than previous years.

Local electric utilities play a critical role in the growth and development of the communities they serve. Unfortunately, these new supply chain issues adversely affect the growth and management of these communities. Without proper equipment, local utilities must triage parts, which delays upgrades and "non-essential" repairs. The weakened systems will make them more susceptible to damage when disaster occurs. FEMA must employ mitigation efforts with the local Florida electric community to ensure that transformers, bare wire, meters, and other electric grid equipment will be available ahead of the first disaster.

Sincerely,



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Neal Dunn
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Carlos Giménez
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress




Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



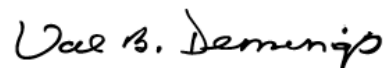
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Val B. Demings
Member of Congress



Mario Díaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress