

Brian Schultz

From: Veronica Washington
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 11:48 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Bay County Disaster Relief

Please place the attached email in Docket No. 20190038-EI.

Thanks

Veronica D. Washington

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Andrew Fay
Florida Public Service Commission
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From: Brandi DeRuitter [mailto:brandideruitter@gmail.com]
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Subject: Bay County Disaster Relief

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to briefly explain what I've seen in Bay County since Hurricane Michael hit six months ago; and respectfully ask for your support in helping ensure our community receives the state and federal resources it needs to return to pre-storm levels of economic growth, redevelopment and vitality.

Prior to the storm, the community was experiencing exciting new sustainable growth and economic diversity. All types of housing were being built, old "eyesores" redeveloped at a noticeably frequent rate, jobs could find employees and employees could find jobs. Everything had balance. The fruits of our community's communication, coordination and collaboration were making positive change.

Since the storm, everyone has been in continuous clean-up mode. But there is still a long way to go. My daily drive to work (to a portable, our office was destroyed) includes viewing so many homes, buildings and plazas reduced to rubble. People once lived in these homes and worked in those businesses. They had children, pets and the opportunity for a predictable daily life.

Today, cycles of downturn continue and mental health issues are understandably on the rise. We need your help. Category 5 storms are known for their destruction. We are all working hard to rebuild, but we can't do it

alone. We need your help. We need state and federal funding for schools/colleges, hospitals, and local governments to make repairs to provide essential services. We need to make functional our economic infrastructure.

Please graciously continue to keep Bay County in mind as budgets are finalized and priorities are ordered.

Respectfully,

Brandi DeRuiter