



Chairman Tom Graves

*Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
House Committee on Appropriations*

Financial Services Disaster Supplemental Hearing November 29, 2017 Opening Statement As Prepared

Good Afternoon, the hearing will come to order.

First let me say, thank you all for being here today, and for your dedication and attention to the families and communities suffering after the devastating natural disasters this fall. My prayers and support are with the victims and their families as they rebuild in the aftermath of these storms.

At today's hearing, we'll discuss the Small Business Administration's and General Services Administration's supplemental funding request of nearly \$1.8 billion, which is meant to help Americans rebuild in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

In addition, I want to hear about how the prior disaster funding appropriations are being spent. To date, Congress has approved almost \$52 billion total in disaster funding, including \$450 million for the SBA.

I'm interested in the previous funding requests because this is the first opportunity we've had to ask about those funding bills. Unfortunately, those funding requests did not follow regular order. So, we're going to make up for lost time by discussing them today.

Additionally, I look forward to hearing about offsets. OMB Director Mick Mulvaney wrote the following in a recent letter to Congress: "As we move toward the longer-term issue of rebuilding the impacted areas of our Nation, we believe that it is appropriate that the Congress consider reducing spending elsewhere in order to offset what will, again, be a significant amount of unbudgeted spending."

The letter also stated: "Last week we sent a preliminary list representing potential cancellations that could easily offset just over \$5.5 billion in unspent, previously-designated emergency spending."

I agree with that sentiment. So, I would like to hear what the administration is proposing to cut to further offset this request and whether reductions were made after the previous requests.

Finally, I want to know if this is the last request you anticipate. If not, I want to understand why you believe your agencies will need additional funding.

Our witnesses from the Small Business Administration are Timothy Gribben, who is the Chief Financial Officer and Associate Administrator for Performance Management; and James Rivera, who is the Associate Administrator for the Office of Disaster Assistance.

Our witness from the General Services Administration is Timothy Horne, who is the Acting Administrator.

Welcome, and thank you for being here.

The Small Business Administration's new request totals nearly \$1.7 billion, which is mostly for loan subsidies to provide for more than \$12 billion in disaster loans.

The GSA request totals \$122 million, of which \$88 million is for five major repairs to Federal buildings in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Fort Meyers, Florida. I understand the request also includes \$34 million for basic building repairs and up to \$15 million to fix U.S. courthouses located in storm-affected areas.

I look forward to hearing from both the SBA and GSA on the requests. And I urge the members of the Subcommittee to take this opportunity to exercise your constitutional oversight role.

Again, I would like to thank our witnesses for taking the time to meet with us today. With that, I will yield to Mr. Quigley for any opening statement he would like to make.

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