



September 19, 2017

The Honorable Ted Cruz
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Cruz:

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), Association of Marina Industries (AMI), the Boating Trades Association of Metropolitan Houston (BTAMH) and Marina Association of Texas (MAT) are gearing up to help our members and partners in Texas as they rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. We hope to act as a resource and partner to the Texas Congressional Delegation in the days to come.

NMMA is the leading recreational marine industry trade association in North America, representing 1,400 boat, engine, and accessory manufacturers. NMMA members collectively produce more than 80 percent of the recreational marine products sold in the United States, with a total economic impact of \$6 billion annually in Texas.

AMI is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to serving the needs of the marina industry, representing over 1,200 marinas, boatyards, clubs, and related businesses, including over 60 marinas in Texas.

MAT is a non-profit trade association representing the marina industry in Texas. They represent nearly 170 member companies, including marinas on the inland and coastal waters of Texas and associate members whose firms supply products and services to marinas.

BTAMH has 150 corporate members. It is one of the oldest and largest regional marine trade associations in the country and is owner of the Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show, Inc.

NMMA, AMI, MAT, and BTAMH are proud of the positive economic and employment impact the marine sector has on Texas, and the many small and family-owned businesses that comprise our industry. We have been saddened to receive initial reports from a number of marinas and recreational boating businesses along the Gulf Coast about damages that they have sustained. Some initial reports include:

- In Rockport, Cove Harbor Marina was severely damaged because of wind, and marinas in the lower coast were hit particularly hard.
- In Ingleside, Bahia Marina was severely damaged, with approximately 75% damage to boat slips, and about 75% of boats having been damaged or sunk.
- Island Moorings Marina in Port Aransas has sustained so much damage that the owners will have to completely rebuild the facility and will be forced to send all of their boat slip tenants elsewhere during the rebuilding process. These small business owners also lost their entire restaurant, as well as 17 boats that sank.
- Redfish Bay Boathouse in Aransas Pass sustained extensive damage that will need to be repaired.
- Several of these marinas have had to send live-aboards to nearby marinas that did not face as much damage while they work to restore utilities and repair damages.
- Additionally, boat ramps in these areas have been severely damaged. These are important access points that enable communities, residents, and small business owners to access the water for both commercial and recreational pursuits.

As your office and the broader Texas Congressional Delegation work to secure needed disaster relief funding and assistance and work with stakeholders at all levels, we hope you will keep the above community and small business needs in mind.

NMMA, AMI, MAT, and BTAMH stand ready to serve as a resource and partner in the rebuilding effort, and would be glad to answer any questions or provide any guidance you or your staff members may find useful during this process. Should your staff members desire any further information, we would encourage them to contact NMMA Director of Federal Government Affairs Mike Pasko, reachable at 202-737-9760 and mpasko@nmma.org.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

National Marine Manufacturers Association
Association of Marina Industries
Marina Association of Texas
Boating Trades Association of Metropolitan Houston