



September 19, 2017

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz:

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), Association of Marina Industries (AMI), Marine Industries Association of Florida (MIAF), Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), and Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association (SWFMIA) are gearing up to help our members and partners in Florida as they rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. We hope to serve as a resource and partner to the Florida 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 billions of dollars of economic impact annually in Florida.

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.

MIAF is a not-for-profit marine trade association, dedicated to the enhancement of family recreational boating and access to the waterways in Florida. Over 1,900 marine businesses are members of MIAF.

MIASF is the largest marine trade organization in the Southeast United States dedicated to promoting, protecting, and growing the 110,000 middle class jobs in Broward County and 136,000 jobs regionally in marine businesses promoting boating lifestyles from family cruising and fishing to yachts and the goods and services that sustain them, driving the economic output to \$8.8 billion in Broward County and \$11.5 billion regionally.

SWFMIA is made of a broad range of member businesses with an interest in recreational boating. The association plays an active role in the local community and has, for more than forty years, worked to protect the rights both of the boating consumer and member businesses.

We are proud of the positive economic and employment impact the marine sector has on Florida, and the many small and family-owned businesses that comprise our industry. As you know, Florida is one the premier boating capitals of the world, with large numbers of registered and documented recreational vessels and we need to maintain the facilities, businesses, and infrastructure that support them. It is truly a top economic driver in the Sunshine State. We have been saddened to receive initial reports from a number of marinas and recreational boating businesses in Florida about damages that they have sustained. Some initial reports include:

- A community boating center in Miami that had a 250 foot dock destroyed.
- Marinas and docks in the Hollywood area that have sustained severe damages.
- A multi-ton cement dock lifted up onto the sea wall at the Grove Harbour Marina in Coconut Grove.
- Marinas throughout the Keys that have suffered severe impacts.
- Channel markers and buoys that have come loose and are obstructing waterways.
- Additionally, boat ramps throughout Florida 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.
- Finally, many recreational vessels of all types and sizes also have been severely damaged and are in need of repair by workers in our Florida boatyards.

As your office and the broader Florida 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.

In addition, our organizations stand ready to act 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
Marine Industries Association of Florida
Marine Industries Association of South Florida
Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association