

**ROGER WILLIAMS**  
25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION  
AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND  
MONETARY POLICY

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INNOVATION,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON UNDERSERVED,  
AGRICULTURAL, AND RURAL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1708 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TEL: (202) 225-9896  
FAX: (202) 225-9692

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
5806 MESA DRIVE, SUITE 390  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78731  
TEL: (512) 473-8910  
FAX: (202) 225-9692

115 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 206  
CLEBURNE, TEXAS 76033  
TEL: (817) 774-2575  
FAX: (202) 225-9692

[williams.house.gov](http://williams.house.gov)

December 19, 2022

The Honorable Marcia Fudge  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge:

I write today regarding the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) inability to properly manage federal relief dollars following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Ongoing Inspector General audits on the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) and the Water and Power Authority (WAPA), as well as reports from U.S.-based companies that have yet to be paid for their services, have raised concern over the USVI's ability to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

The House Committee on Oversight and Reform is conducting an inquiry into a \$75 million contract that WAPA used to purchase four Wartsila generator units that don't currently work. Now, the VIHFA is in the process of applying for an additional \$67 million in CDBG-DR funding for electrical enhancements to WAPA's Richmond Estate generating plant on St. Croix. Given the past challenges administering relief funds and WAPA's CFO admitting they owe approximately \$150 million to a Texas-based company that they refuse to pay, there must be enhanced scrutiny on these entities before they receive another round of taxpayer dollars.

HUD has previously stated that there are severe challenges with monitoring emergency fund expenditures in the territory, particularly concerning the government-run power utility. Before any additional funds are given to the USVI, we must ensure that they are being good stewards of taxpayer dollars and upholding their financial obligations to U.S.-based companies.

In God We Trust,

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress