



SENATOR GEORGE GAINER
STATE SENATOR DISTRICT II

March 5, 2018

Senator Don Gaetz, Chairman
Speaker Allan Bense
Mr. Stan W. Connally, Jr.

Mr. Ben Lee
Mr. Jason Shoaf
Dr. Pam Dana

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Re: Triumph Fund Awards

Dear Chairman Gaetz and Members,

This letter is written in response to your letter dated January 18, 2018 in which the Triumph Gulf Coast Board of Directors seeks guidance on the award of Triumph funds. The law does not differentiate between funding projects on public or private land or funding public or private entities. Awardees are defined as a "**person, organization, or local government granted an award...**" [Emphasis Added] It is not our intent to grow the size of local governments or special districts but to expand economic opportunities across all sectors of the economy. Section 288.8011, F.S. expresses our intent to help "**businesses, individuals, and local governments** in the Gulf Coast region recover". [Emphasis Added]

Section 288.8017, F.S. states "Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., **shall** make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. Awards **may** be provided for..." [Emphasis Added] The list of awards is not intended to be an exclusive listing.

In connection with question 3, you are encouraged to approach each award on the basis of its unique facts and circumstances. For example, if the award is to a private entity, claw back provisions similar to those commonly used by the Department of Economic Opportunity could be considered unless the award relates to a public purpose. If the award is to a governmental entity or special district that is not a conduit for funding to a private entity, claw back provisions might not be appropriate. However, it should be clearly understood that the Act does not require imposition of specific conditions or restrictions as long as the requirements of Section 288.8017(3) and (4), F.S. are satisfied.

We look forward to awards for sustainable, transformational projects that contribute to the wellbeing of Florida's future.

Handwritten signature of Senator George Gainer in blue ink.

Senator George Gainer

Handwritten signature of Senator Doug Broxson in blue ink.

Senator Doug Broxson

Handwritten signature of Senator Bill Montford in blue ink.

Senator Bill Montford