

FRANKLIN COUNTY

REPLY TO:
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
33 MARKET STREET, SUITE 203
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320
(850) 653-8861, EXT. 100
(850) 653-4795 FAX



REPLY TO:
PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT
34 FORBES STREET, SUITE 1
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320
(850) 653-9783
(850) 653-9799 FAX

Honorable Don Gaetz, Chairman
TRIUMPH Gulf Coast
PO Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL 32317

March 11, 2019

Dear Chairman Gaetz:

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appreciates the support TRIUMPH has extended to the counties impacted by Hurricane Michael. We are very much aware of the damage to our communities, and our beaches and dune system, and we fully expected the devastation to translate into a loss of taxable property. To that end, Ms. Rhonda Skipper, Franklin County Property Appraiser, was asked to provide the Board with an interim assessment on property values for the upcoming tax year.

Ms. Skipper did provide her interim assessment, and, at this time, the property tax valuation for the county, the school board, and the two cities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle are all projected to be slighter higher next year. Based upon the projections the Board received, we understand that Franklin County is not eligible to apply for tax assistance, and therefore Franklin County will not be submitting any request.

We thank you for your offer, but we do remind TRIUMPH that Franklin County might still suffer a financial hardship if the county is obligated to provide the standard 12.5% match for FEMA projects. At this time, Franklin County is estimating some \$8M worth of FEMA eligible damage. The local match for \$8M of federal funds is \$1M. It so happens that Franklin County only budgets \$1M of reserve funds, so if the county does receive federal obligations of \$8M we will need all of our reserve funds to meet the local match. Compounding this problem is that we have already expended \$500K of our reserve funds in hurricane response. We are seeking FEMA reimbursement but the \$500K is still an expenditure we have made.

If you have any questions regarding our recovery efforts, or if there are additional opportunities being created by TRIUMPH, please feel free to communicate with Mr. Alan C. Pierce, RESTORE Coordinator, at 850-653-5727, or his email at alanp@fairpoint.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Noah Lockley, Jr." followed by a period.

Noah Lockley, Jr. Chairman

RICKY D. JONES
DISTRICT ONE

CHERYL SANDERS
DISTRICT TWO

NOAH LOCKLEY, JR.
DISTRICT THREE

JOSEPH PARRISH
DISTRICT FOUR

WILLIAM MASSEY
DISTRICT FIVE