



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

November 21, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write to urge immediate U.S. engagement in support of Jamaica's recovery and electrical infrastructure reconstruction following Hurricane Melissa. On October 28, 2025, Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica as the most powerful hurricane to make landfall in the Atlantic Basin in history, leaving 70–80% of Jamaica's electricity customers without power and causing an estimated \$6-7 billion in damages—roughly 30% of Jamaica's GDP. Jamaica is a critical partner in regional security, trade, and energy, and our nations share deep cultural, familial, and economic ties—particularly through the vibrant Jamaican American community whose family members have been left in the dark back home.

The scale of destruction to transmission and distribution networks is unprecedented, with officials describing conditions as catastrophic and warning that full restoration could take months. Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS), the island's national electric utility, has indicated that large portions of the grid require complete rebuilds rather than repairs. The hardest-hit western regions remain blacked out, with downed power lines preventing land access to entire communities and leaving hospitals, schools, and water facilities struggling to maintain operations. JPS has already announced it must bring in overseas line workers and specialized heavy equipment to augment Jamaica's limited domestic capacity.

This presents both a strategic opportunity and a vulnerability for U.S. interests. If Jamaica must rely on foreign expertise, financing, and equipment to rebuild its electrical grid, the United States should encourage competitive opportunities for American firms and workers to provide such support. Otherwise, the People's Republic of China (PRC) will seize this opening. PRC state-owned enterprises have invested billions in Latin American and Caribbean infrastructure to

establish strategic footholds in the region—owning the electrical infrastructure of a nation just 600 miles from U.S. shores would provide Beijing with significant economic and political leverage in the Caribbean.

We urge the Department of State to take the following actions:

Coordinate with the U.S. Department of Energy, JPS, the Government of Jamaica, and other relevant stakeholders, including from U.S. industry, to assess resource requirements and facilitate rapid deployment of U.S. firms for grid damage assessment, emergency restoration, and reconstruction.

Work with the Government of Jamaica to expedite travel documentation, equipment customs clearances, and on-island logistics for any U.S. contractors and crews involved in post-hurricane recovery activities to ensure they can mobilize immediately.

Work with the Government of Jamaica and relevant U.S. agencies to help U.S. firms compete successfully for grid reconstruction and long-term infrastructure hardening.

Surge support to health, water and sanitation sectors in Jamaica to bring hospitals, health centers, and water treatment and pumping stations managed by the National Water Commission (NWC) back to full service.

Extend U.S. Helicopter Operations in Jamaica for aerial reconnaissance, medical evacuations, and relief distributions as downed power lines and damaged roads thwart the delivery of aid to remote and isolated communities.

Jamaica's recovery is a test of U.S. leadership in the hemisphere. The United States, its private sector, and the NGO community possess the skilled workforce, equipment, and technical expertise to restore Jamaica's grid while protecting our strategic interests. We look forward to your response and to working together to ensure this reconstruction serves both Jamaica's recovery and U.S. national security objectives.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Mast
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee