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For Immediate Release

**FCC ADVANCES UP TO \$76.9 MILLION TO RESTORE
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS IN PUERTO RICO AND U.S. VIRGIN
ISLANDS DEVASTATED BY MARIA**

WASHINGTON, October 4, 2017 – Responding to the destruction of communications networks wreaked by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Federal Communications Commission today took steps to immediately provide up to \$76.9 million to help restore service.

The FCC unanimously voted to immediately provide carriers with up to seven-months' worth of support from the FCC's Universal Service Fund, which helps lower the cost of deploying service in areas that are costly to serve. Any funds advanced under today's action can be used to repair telecommunications infrastructure and restore service to customers across the islands.

Maria's direct hit of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands on Sept. 20 left the vast majority of cell sites out of service, and nearly all consumers without either cable or wireline services. Even as of yesterday, approximately 88% of cell sites were out of service in Puerto Rico and 67% in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The FCC's actions are intended to enable carriers to restore essential communications services as quickly as possible. FCC staff will help coordinate network repair activities to ensure that the greatest coverage is available to the most people.

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