

Congress can help Puerto Rico modernize electrical grid

To the editor:

Kudos to Congressman Seth Moulton for his article about visiting Puerto Rico and seeing firsthand the climate change related damage that Hurricane Maria caused, and the problems Americans in Puerto Rico still face (“‘A lot of work ahead’ in Puerto Rico,” Jan. 20). I was particularly troubled to learn that most individuals still lack electricity, and that FEMA is stymied when it comes to restoring electricity. It seems that legally FEMA must repair or replace the same electrical system that was destroyed. FEMA isn’t allowed to install a more modern renewable system that would be easier to bring to Puerto Rico’s remote areas and that would better endure future extreme storms.

I hope that Moulton encourages the House Climate Solutions Caucus to propose legislation to fix problems in FEMA’s legal framework that prevent them from replacing Puerto Rico’s electricity the best way we know how in 2018 — rather than the best way we knew in, say, 1968.

The Climate Solutions Caucus is currently composed of 33 Republican representatives and 33 Democrats. They’ve previously voted as a group to defeat foolish legislation that would have stymied the military’s planning for climate change. Now they could free FEMA from legal hindrances that prevent their effective response to climate dangers.

Judy Weiss
Brookline

[LINK](#)