



FloridaCommerce  
Division of Community Development  
Attn: BCPG  
107 East Madison Street  
Caldwell Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32300-4120

**Via email to the:** Florida Department of Commerce

**Re: 2023 Monroe County Hurricane Evacuation Modeling Update**

Good afternoon,

Like many residents of Monroe County, we are very interested in a progress report on Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) update of the Monroe County Hurricane Evacuation Model. As you are aware, this important Model is used to manage growth and public safety in Monroe County and is required by state law. The once-per-decade process of updating the Model is critical to ensuring residents and visitors have adequate time to safely evacuate in the event of a major storm, given both the amount of growth that has occurred in Monroe County and southern Florida as well as the increasing frequency of rapidly intensifying hurricanes. Your work is the most important guardrail Monroe County has in managing growth and reasonable levels of tourism. We are certain Monroe County wants to avoid a similar disaster and loss of life which Florida experienced with Hurricane Ian in 2022.

Without repeating our concerns, the update of the Monroe County Hurricane Evacuation Model is critical to public safety in Monroe County. After the Florida DEO's announcement of three Public Workshops in June, with only one week's notice to the public, the residents of Monroe County now deserve a thoughtful and specific timeline for next steps in the process.

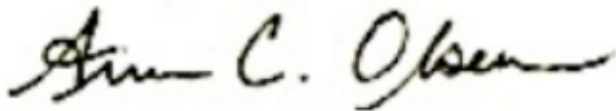
For example, important information for the public to consider would include:

- Timing and public availability of the updated Model and its results
- A description and rationale for any changes to the previous Model or assumptions underlying the updated Model
- Opportunities for professional reviews of the above efforts
- Identification of the professional consultants retained to review and run the Model, demonstration of their independence/objectivity, and summary of their work plan and timeline
- Timing and extent of the involvement of professionals from NOAA and Florida's Department of Emergency Management
- Statistics from the three workshops and following comment period (numbers of workshop attendees and speakers; number of comment letters received [regular mail and email]; a summary of the nature of those written comments)

We appreciate your assistance in placing the public safety of Monroe County residents and visitors first.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

For the Last Stand Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann C. Olsen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann C. Olsen

Last Stand P.O. Box 146 Key West, FL 33041 [keyslaststand.org](http://keyslaststand.org)