

*Excerpt of letter from Ivan Torres, founder of **Crab Island Rum**, Puerto Rico to Bill Owens, President of **American Distilling Institute**:*

I have been working on this project since 2013 and before that, from 2009, I was a moonshiner. I have a strong feeling that the craft industry is an excellent opportunity for a small community like ours. I had a lot of help and support from friends and family and now, more than ever, I don't want to let this project die.

I estimated the loss from the hurricane at about \$30,000. I lost 3 large, brand new rolling doors, the roof sealer treatment with insulation, a new control panel for the still, my propane installation for the boiler, a couple of windows, 2 cisterns with their water pumps and all the business that I will not be able to do until the electricity and the tourists come back. As I mentioned in the phone conversation, I was about to do my first legal distillation when Hurricane Maria arrived. At the same time, we were working with the Puerto Rico Development bank for a line of credit for rum production.

**Immediate equipment needs:**

- Hand and electric tools
- Barrels (used, charred oak)
- Bottles and caps
- Labels
- Labeling machine
- Sanitary Hoses and fittings 1 ½"
- Activated Carbon
- Control Panel
- Other miscellaneous items such as buckets, funnels etc.
- Polishing filter for finished product
- Lab equipment:
  - Hydrometers
  - Thermometers
  - PH meter
  - Water conductivity meter
  - Hydrometers for Brix
  - Heating mantle
  - Boiling flask
  - Glassware
  - Scale
  - Burettes
  - Beakers

Any other item you think I can make a use of at the distillery would be very welcome. This is just a list I made of things that came to my mind. I did not add a generator because I think that is asking for too much. If someone wants to send a donation I have paypal accounts:

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Among the equipment that suffered *no damage* is:

- 300 gallon still
- 300 gallon SS fermentation tank
- 15 HP Fulton Boiler
- An osmosis water filter
- A carbon filter

A bottle filling machine  
A 1½" alcohol transfer pump  
3 SS tanks for alcohol storage

Mailing address for **USPS**:

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To ship via **UPS** or **FedEx**:

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Whatever economic help I can get will be used to repair the damages suffered by the hurricane. Again, I appreciate any help [to get us up and running]. We welcome you [and our fellow distillers] to our island of Vieques at **Crab Island Distillery**.

Best regards,

Ivan

