

*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 1/2"
- 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

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 1 1/2" alcohol transfer pump
- 3 SS tanks for alcohol storage

Mailing address for **USPS**:

Ivan Torres
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HC 02 Box 14408
Vieques PR 00765

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

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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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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

