

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2007

President George Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We would like to thank you for declaring a major disaster for the State of New Jersey and for recognizing the extent of the damage caused by the devastating storms and flooding on April 15-17 and urge that you approve further disaster assistance.

We understand that you approved hazard mitigation grant assistance for the entire state and individual assistance for the specific counties of Bergen, Burlington, Essex, Passaic, Somerset, and Union. This disaster, however, caused widespread damage across many other counties, as noted in letters sent to you by Acting Governor Codey. We thus respectfully request that you expedite approval of individual assistance for the entire state so that residents can recover faster from the effects of the disaster and get back to their normal lives.

We also respectfully request that you quickly approve public disaster assistance for the entire state. This assistance would help local governments that expended public funds to do emergency assistance, cleanup, and recovery efforts. Many of these towns have spent a large portion of their budgets dealing with this disaster, and public assistance is critical to ensuring that they will be able to continue their services without facing undue financial hardships.

As you know, this storm was the second worst in state history, dropping more rain than any storm since 1882. These downpours resulted in the evacuation of approximately 5,000 New Jerseyans and were responsible for the deaths of at least three. Over eight inches of rain fell in parts of these counties over the course of the storm, causing widespread flooding, breaching dams, washing out roadways, collapsing bridges, and damaging countless homes and businesses.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter and for providing critical assistance to the people of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

  
Frank R. Lautenberg

  
Robert Menendez

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Frank Pallone

Chris Smith  
Christopher H. Smith

Robert E. Andrews  
Robert E. Andrews

Jim Saxton  
Jim Saxton

Frank A. LoBiondo  
Frank A. LoBiondo

Scott Garrett  
Scott Garrett

Mike Ferguson  
Mike Ferguson

Bill Pascrell  
Bill Pascrell

Steven R. Rothman  
Steven R. Rothman

Donald M. Payne  
Donald M. Payne

Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Rodney P. Frelinghuysen

Rush D. Holt  
Rush D. Holt

Albio Sires  
Albio Sires