

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2007

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

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge your immediate review and swift approval of Acting Governor Codey's request that parts of Burlington, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union counties and potentially other regions of New Jersey, be declared major disaster areas as a result of the devastating storms and flooding on April 15-17.

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 several hundred homes and businesses. This storm, the second worst in state history, dropped 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. Currently, over a dozen roads and bridges remain closed.

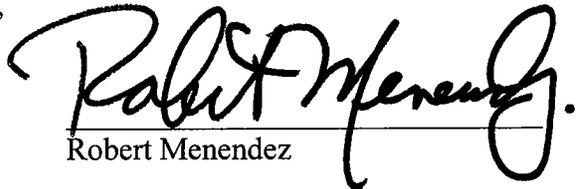
Our residents need swift help from the federal government to begin to put their lives back together and replace property that was destroyed. Once a disaster is declared under the Stafford Act (§401), badly needed services, grants and other financial assistance for disaster-related needs become available to citizens such as homeowner assistance for repairs, serious medical needs, Small Business Administration loans, unemployment assistance, legal advice and many other forms of assistance.

We know that the rebuilding of these areas and of peoples lives will take a long time. New Jersey has not seen devastation like this in many years. So we urge the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to immediately establish Disaster Recovery Centers throughout the area so that our constituents can quickly get the answers and assistance they need.

We appreciate your attention to this matter of critical importance 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