

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

We commend you and your Administration for your support of communities that have suffered as a result of Tropical Storm Sandy, which took the lives of more than 100 Americans, destroyed homes and businesses, crippled infrastructure and devastated the East Coast of the United States. Rebuilding cannot be a decade-long path; our communities must begin rebuilding today.

In the wake of disasters, the federal government has a tradition of helping states recover from catastrophic damage. As the full extent of Sandy's destruction is not yet known, it is already clear that significant federal assistance will be required.

Funds available in FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund are diminishing daily, and disaster assistance in related agencies will not be sufficient to help families and businesses in need. We request the Office of Management and Budget submit an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2013 budget request, pursuant to the Budget Control Act, to provide emergency aid for federal disaster assistance programs.

In addition, we ask that you extend current provisions for 100 percent reimbursement for a full 30 days after the disaster and expand these provisions to cover all direct federal assistance. As there is no doubt that the damage in the hardest hit areas will meet the threshold to allow for a cost share waiver, we ask that you exercise your discretion in this matter to increase the federal cost share for Public Assistance categories A-G to 90 percent so that state and local governments can respond more quickly to take steps toward a complete recovery.

A full recovery will require disaster assistance programs through a number of agencies and departments, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Economic Development Administration, and Small Business Administration. Therefore, we hope your Fiscal Year 2014 budget proposal will reflect the financial resources each department will require to meet ongoing recovery needs.

We look forward to working with you to help our families and businesses recover and stand ready to provide any information to help expedite our request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress


NITA LOWEY
Member of Congress

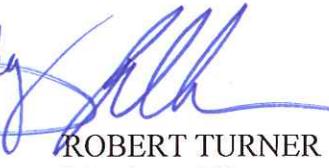

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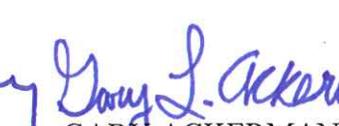

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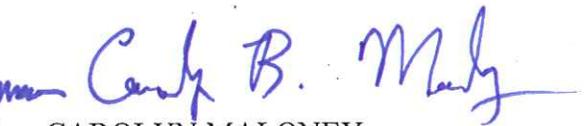

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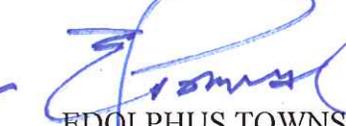

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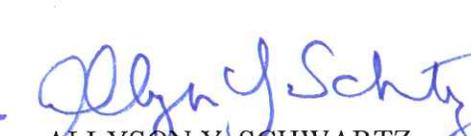

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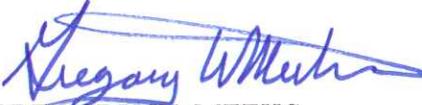

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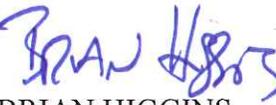

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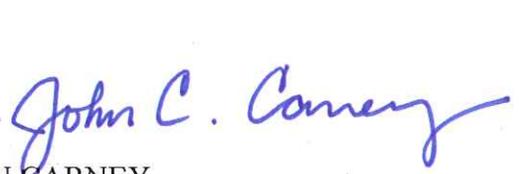

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