

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 15, 2009

Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Dear President Obama and Administrator Fugate:

We write today to urge the expeditious approval of New York State's request for a federal disaster declaration for New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties in New York following a severe storm on November 12th -14th that resulted in the substantial loss of sand and dunes in Brooklyn, Queens and on the northern and southern coastlines of Long Island. A federal disaster declaration would make many communities hardest hit by this storm eligible for much needed federal aid to assist with the rehabilitation of their beaches, dunes and to protect important infrastructure, roads and homes from potential storm surges this winter, spring and beyond.

The damage to New York's coastal communities resulting from this storm is estimated to be in excess of \$41 million. A federal disaster declaration would allow these localities to receive federal funding to defray the cost of rebuilding the shoreline, which is their only protection from dune breaches and flooding. Without the protection of its shoreline and dunes, public infrastructure, resources and private homes may be in jeopardy, leaving communities on Long Island and Rockaway exposed and vulnerable to any additional storms or nor'easters that may come through this winter. Given the possibility of another devastating storm, or series of storms, it is imperative that these beaches are restored as quickly as possible. The extent of damage clearly meets federal guidelines, as the threshold for receiving FEMA assistance is \$25 million statewide.

We fully support New York State's request for a federal emergency declaration to provide assistance to local governments in the state. It is vital that we ensure that New York's coastlines are protected from the effects of future storm damage, which could prove to be devastating. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact our staff if we can be of any further assistance.

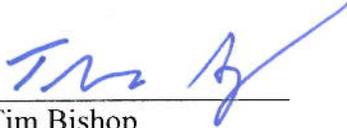
Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



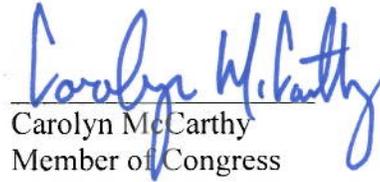
Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



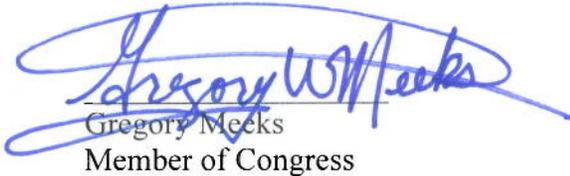
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress