United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2026

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to respectfully urge your swift consideration and authorization of the Major Disaster Declaration request from Governor Hochul on behalf of the State of New York in the wake of the September nor'easter that brought severe flooding, gale-force winds, and major coastal flooding to Long Island and southern New York. We support the Governor's request for Public Assistance (PA) for Nassau and Suffolk Counties and Hazard Mitigation for the entire State. We also support the inclusion of any additional counties that New York State believes meets the threshold for PA. Such a declaration under the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (P.L. 100-707) would unlock crucial Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resources and assets that will aid the State, first responders, and community efforts to recover and rebuild in the coming months and years.

The storm battered southern New York with strong winds and heavy rain, which combined with a full moon that exacerbated high tides, caused major coastal flooding and flash flooding. In addition to the flooding, gale-force winds felled trees and branches that damaged utility poles. During the storm over 200,000 New Yorkers lost power, of which over half were on Long Island.

In preparation for the nor'easter, Governor Hochul declared a State of Emergency for eight counties on September 25th, mobilizing and prepositioning resources, equipment, and personnel to southern New York. Nassau County, Suffolk County, and New York City all activated their emergency operations centers, and first responders and emergency workers removed debris, protected infrastructure, and restored electricity all while New York City was hosting the UN General Assembly. New York State and local municipalities took immediate action in preparation and response to the storm.

The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in partnership with FEMA Region 2 and Nassau and Suffolk Counties, has documented and validated that the damage and costs from this nor'easter exceed the State's threshold for a disaster declaration. Without federal support that a Major Disaster Declaration can provide, New Yorkers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties will lose a critical partner in their efforts to recover and prepare for future natural disasters.

We are grateful for the prompt attention that the federal government has historically given in ensuring public safety and responding to disasters that have impacted New York State. In that spirit, we strongly urge you to approve New York's Major Disaster Declaration.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

cc:
The Honorable Cameron Hamilton, Administrator, FEMA