

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 30, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request the major disaster declaration issued for several counties in the State of New Jersey in response to Hurricane Sandy be expanded to include the remaining counties in the state facing damage as a result of this unprecedented storm. We thank you for your swift action in granting a pre-landfall emergency declaration and a major disaster declaration for eight counties early Tuesday, but the severe damage throughout the state warrants the addition of more counties.

The storm slammed into Atlantic City on Monday night, causing damage throughout the state and the deaths of at least three people. More than 2.4 million people were without power as of Tuesday morning, approximately twice the number who lost power during Hurricane Irene. The storm wreaked havoc across the state, and many residents experienced damage to their home and personal property. In addition, public infrastructure including rail lines, roadways, water treatment plants, utility lines, public facilities, and the shoreline have been hit extremely hard. Many businesses had to close, and the storm will lead to significant economic loss.

You and your entire Administration have acted decisively and provided tremendous support during this catastrophic storm. By expanding the disaster designation to additional counties, the federal government will be able to help more individuals, businesses and local governments clean up and rebuild from the wreckage.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you in bringing federal resources to New Jersey to protect our residents, our communities and our state.

Sincerely,


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG


ROBERT MENENDEZ