

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2026

Ed Potosnak
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

Jeanne Hengemuhle
Acting State Director
Office of Emergency Management
PO Box 7068
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Commissioner Potosnak and Acting State Director Hengemuhle:

Over the weekend, my district and areas across New Jersey were hit by a powerful nor'easter storm that resulted in intense rainfall, tidal surges, and forceful winds. I appreciate your willingness to conduct a prompt survey to assess damage to our state. This is necessary in my effort to secure a federal disaster declaration, should the damage survey thresholds be met.

From power outages to substantial coastal erosion, this nor'easter has brought dangerous conditions to our state. In its most recent forecast, the National Weather Service warned that the nor'easter would likely continue heavy rain and tidal surges on mid-Atlantic and northeastern states through Monday night. Coastal sections of New Jersey are seeing significant flooding. In some parts of my district, six to seven feet of tidal flooding inundated businesses and homes, municipal infrastructure such as piers and bulkheads are severely damaged, and cars on the street are submerged in flood water. While it appears that flood control projects, berms, and raised homes saved many areas from even worse damage, the destruction left behind from this storm is significant.

I appreciate Governor Sherrill's proactive state of emergency declaration, and I urge the DEP and OEM to gather information on the full extent of the damage as soon as it is safe to do so.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." in a cursive style.

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

CC: US Army Corps of Engineers
Federal Emergency Management Agency