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FRANK PALLONE, JR.
6TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-3006

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April 17, 2014

Regional Administrator Jerome Hatfield
FEMA Region II
26 Federal Plaza, 13th Floor
New York, NY 10278

Regional Administrator Hatfield:

I write to you today regarding the Bray Avenue Bridge, located in my district, in Middletown, NJ.

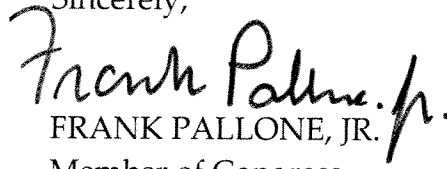
The Bray Avenue Bridge has been closed since post-Sandy inspections revealed structural deficiencies that rendered the bridge no longer safe for vehicular traffic. The County of Monmouth, the responsible party, has applied to FEMA for public assistance funding to help with the repair of the bridge, but to date has been denied any significant funding. The most recent funding amount offered by FEMA was approximately \$190,000, a mere fraction of the funds needed. The County has filed an appeal of FEMA's decision.

The Bray Avenue Bridge is located on a vital roadway which connects two parts of the Township of Middletown. Its closure has resulted in a time-consuming detour for residents who travel the area daily, adding significant travel time to school bus routes and, of greatest concern, increasing response time for ambulances and fire trucks responding to calls.

It is my understanding that FEMA believes the Bray Avenue Bridge was already in need of repair before the storm, which has resulted in the low funding level being offered. While the County acknowledges that the bridge was not in pristine condition prior to Sandy, the bridge was functioning and was safe for vehicular traffic. It was only

after the damage caused by the storm was assessed that the determination was made to close the bridge.

I ask that you please look into this matter of great concern to the residents of Middletown. I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

CC: Jon Moren, Department of Engineering, County of Monmouth
Tony Mercantante, Township Administrator, Township of Middletown