

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2026

Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Trump:

From September 23 to 29, 2026, communities across New Jersey were hit by a powerful nor'easter storm that resulted in intense rainfall, tidal surges, and forceful winds. We are writing to express our support for Governor Sherrill's request to declare a Major Disaster for the State of New Jersey for the impacts sustained from this severe weather event.

The nor'easter brought dangerous conditions to our state causing substantial erosion. In some parts of our state, six to seven feet of tidal flooding inundated businesses and homes, municipal infrastructure such as piers and bulkheads were severely damaged, and vehicles on the street were 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. A post-storm assessment by the New Jersey Department of Environment's Office of Coastal Engineering determined that eight federal coastal storm risk management projects were significantly damaged. In its joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs), FEMA validated damages totaling \$26,976,037 for Atlantic, Cape May, and Monmouth counties. The costs associated with these counties greatly exceed federal thresholds that indicate whether the impact to a jurisdiction exceeds the jurisdiction's capacity to fund the cost of recovery.¹ The scope of this emergency requires critical support from the federal government for the State to recover from this storm.

Governor Sherrill requested activation of FEMA's Public Assistance Program (Categories A-G) and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to reimburse costs to repair public infrastructure and fund projects that will prepare our state for the impacts of future catastrophic events. We urge you to use the authority granted under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 and 44 C.F.R. § 206.36 to expeditiously declare a Major Disaster for this nor'easter, so the State of New Jersey can effectively recover from this disaster and address vulnerabilities created by this storm.

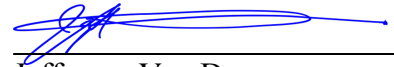
Responding to major disasters is not just the federal government's job, it's America's promise.

Sincerely,

¹ 44 C.F.R. 206.48(a)(1)



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



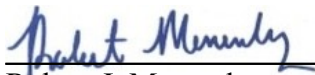
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



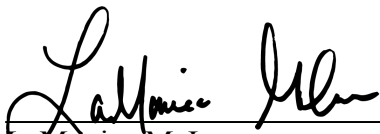
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress