

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2020

Hon. Peter T. Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administer Gaynor,

We are writing in support of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's request for a 30-day extension from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in conducting its Preliminary Damage Assessment in the wake of Tropical Storm Isaias.

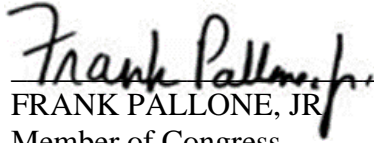
As you are aware, Tropical Storm Isaias arrived in New Jersey on August 4, bringing rain, flooding, and some of the highest wind speeds our state has seen since Superstorm Sandy in 2012, resulting in two confirmed tornado touchdowns. These conditions led to major destruction of public and private property and left more than 1.4 million homes and businesses without power. In fact, PSE&G and Atlantic City Electric rank Tropical Storm Isais in the top five most damaging storms of all time.

The duration of the power outages and the damage Tropical Storm Isais inflicted upon homes and businesses throughout the region make it especially critical that the State of New Jersey submits the most accurate Preliminary Damage Assessment possible. Unfortunately, damages caused by the storm, paired with difficulties caused by the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, have slowed the State's ability to collect this assessment data and prevented it from determining the full impact of the storm within the allotted timeframe.

Governor Murphy has determined that the damages inflicted upon New Jersey by Tropical Storm Isaias were widespread enough to require a 30-day extension in order to conclude the Preliminary Damage Assessment in an accurate and thorough manner. We respectfully request that FEMA grants the extension for this purpose.


Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,


  
FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress

  
DONALD NORCROSS  
Member of Congress

  
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress

  
TOM MALINOWSKI  
Member of Congress

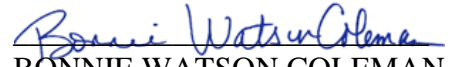
  
JOSH GOTTHEIMER  
Member of Congress

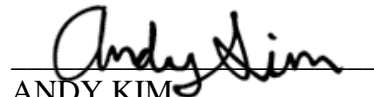
  
ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress

  
MIKIE SHERRILL  
Member of Congress

  
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress

  
BILL PASCRELL, JR.  
Member of Congress

  
BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN  
Member of Congress

  
ANDY KIM  
Member of Congress

  
JEFFERSON VAN DREW  
Member of Congress