

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

On September 3, 2020, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo officially requested that a major disaster declaration be issued for New York State as a result of Tropical Storm Isaias that impacted New York on August 4, 2020. As Members of Congress representing communities directly impacted by the severe winds and heavy rains, we urge you to issue such a declaration as soon as possible.

Tropical Storm Isaias left significant amounts of debris and damage in its wake: road closures, disrupted public transportation services, and disrupted telephone, cable, and internet services that have been essential for New Yorkers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some 920,000 homes and businesses throughout the State experienced power outages. At a time when more families than ever before are struggling to feed their children, power outages that lasted more than a week further threatened food security.

New York State has deployed significant State and local resources in response to Tropical Storm Isaias across the State's Emergency Operations Center, the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, State Police, and Municipal Emergency Operations Centers.

At least \$48 million in infrastructure repair and debris removal costs have been validated for Nassau and Suffolk counties – exceeding both the per capita threshold and the Statewide threshold – and damage assessment evaluations for Dutchess, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, and Westchester counties remain ongoing.

As we continue to face the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that New York residents have reliable electricity, telephone, and internet service. Combined with the challenges already facing municipal budgets statewide, as well as the State's ongoing recovery from several major disasters in recent years and today's co-existing pandemic, the extensive damages caused by Tropical Storm Isaias pose a serious threat to New York's economic recovery. Federal assistance is urgently needed.

On behalf of our constituents, we respectfully urge you to grant Governor Cuomo's request and immediately deploy federal resources to support New York's response to Tropical Storm Isaias. We also urge expediting damage assessment evaluations for Dutchess, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, and Westchester counties to support timely assistance, as well as reviews of Tropical Storm Isaias-related damage in other New York counties.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



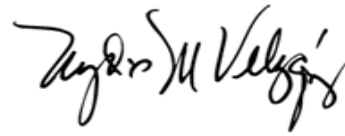
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Lee M. Zeldin
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



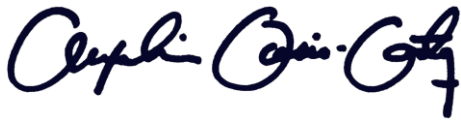
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



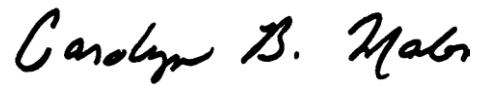
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Max Rose
Member of Congress




Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



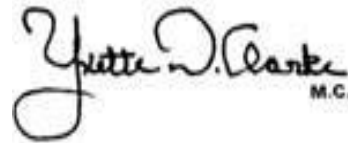
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



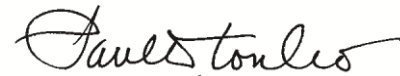
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

CC: FEMA Administrator Gaynor