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RANKING MEMBER



Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
17th District, New York

lowey.house.gov

WASHINGTON

2365 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6506
FAX: (202) 225-0546

WESTCHESTER

222 MAMARONECK AVENUE
SUITE 312
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605
(914) 428-1707
FAX: (914) 328-1505

ROCKLAND

67 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 101
NEW CITY, NY 10956
(845) 639-3485
FAX: (845) 634-4079

August 14, 2015

Secretary Julián Castro
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Castro:

I write in strong support of Governor Andrew Cuomo's request to waive the Duplication of Benefits requirement for homeowners affected by Superstorm Sandy. Without this waiver, New Yorkers who have been affected will be subject to additional hardship.

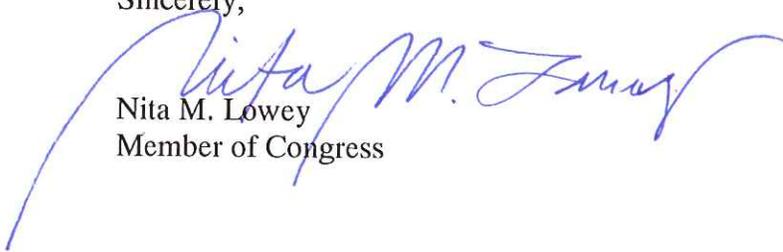
In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, I toured the devastating damage in Rockland and Westchester counties, met with local leaders, and examined recovery efforts. I saw firsthand how critical federal assistance is to helping homeowners get back on their feet.

As you know, Sandy recovery funds granted through HUD are regulated by the Stafford Act, which ensures that homeowners do not receive a duplication of benefits. The Stafford Act permits a waiver of the Duplication of Benefits requirement by the head of an agency.

Without a commonsense waiver, the recoupment to New York State through the Duplication of Benefits requirement will potentially be less than the cost of administering the process, an estimated \$1.5 million in staff time and resources. The additional hardship on those who would be forced to repay recovery benefits they received years ago is unnecessary, particularly when weighed against the cost to the government.

I strongly support Governor Cuomo's request and hope you will take it into serious consideration. Thank you for your continued support of the region, and I look forward to working with you to further help New Yorkers rebuild and recover.

Sincerely,


Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress