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AND THE WORKFORCE

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November 1, 2012

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472

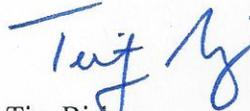
Dear Administrator Fugate:

As you are aware there is currently a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration in place for New York, including Suffolk County, areas of which I represent in the First Congressional District. Unfortunately, Disaster Declaration 4085-DR only grants Public Assistance coverage to municipalities in Categories A and B, which includes debris removal and emergency protective measures. Federal support provided by categories C through G would grant assistance for the repairs to storm-damaged road systems, bridges, water control facilities, public buildings, public utilities, and other critical infrastructure.

On Tuesday, the President promised the victims of Hurricane Sandy that "no red tape" would delay assistance to those affected by the storm. However, New York State has been informed that a preliminary damage assessment (PDA) must be conducted before the State can receive assistance under Categories C through G. Many locations in New York affected by the hurricane cannot anticipate completing a PDA for at least another week, as rescue efforts remain the top priority on the ground. This time frame is going to drastically hinder any relief efforts being made by our state and local governments.

Recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy clearly outstrips the capacities of our state and local governments and federal assistance will be necessary to restore the infrastructure in the areas affected by the Hurricane. I urge you to waive the PDA requirement and expand assistance to Categories C through G based on appropriate verified assessments and commitments by State and local governments that the requested designations are justified and beyond State and local capabilities without supplementary Federal assistance, as authorized under federal law.

Sincerely,



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

CC: Lynn Canton, Region II Administrator, FEMA

TB/ol