

Congressman Steve Rothman to President Obama: Expedite Major Disaster Declaration for New Jersey for Tropical Storm Lee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, DC -- Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ), along with the 12 other members of the New Jersey congressional delegation, sent a letter to President Obama to request an expedited declaration of a major disaster for the entire State of New Jersey.

"The federal government must do everything it can to meet the needs of the many New Jersey residents and businesses who have been seriously impacted by Hurricane Irene. Unfortunately, as these victims work to repair the damage of the hurricane, Tropical Storm Lee has only hindered their efforts and made a bad situation even worse. An expedited declaration of a major disaster for New Jersey is essential to the recovery of those who live throughout our state and for affected local governments, and the State of New Jersey, to respond effectively," said Congressman Rothman. "As always, if I can be of assistance to anyone in dealing with this disaster, please feel free to contact my Hackensack office at (201) 646-0808."

The letter as sent to President Obama:

September 9, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama

President of the United States

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As Members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation, we are writing to express our full support for New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's September 8, 2011, request for an expedited declaration of a major disaster for the entire State of New Jersey.

Tropical Storm Lee's concentrated and sustained rainfall has only intensified the devastation, which you witnessed, inflicted on New Jersey residents by Hurricane Irene. Many of our residents are still displaced as a result of Hurricane Irene's wrath, and others have properties that are unsalvageable; this week's storm only increased the list of homeless victims. Fortunately, thanks to the previous declaration of a major disaster, FEMA is now operational in all our 21 counties.

Your major disaster declaration for Tropical Storm Lee would greatly help our residents, businesses, and communities continue their vital recovery efforts. The severity of this week's storm is beyond the effective response capabilities of the State and affected local governments.

Considering the extent of Tropical Storm Lee and some of the high preliminary damage estimates that are now coming in from our communities, we respectfully ask that after a proper and prompt review, you agree with the Governor's request for an expedited major disaster declaration. Federal support is extremely important for the thousands of New Jersey's residents and businesses suffering as a result of the severe flooding in our state, and it is essential to reduce further strain on local, county, and the state budgets.

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