

## Congressman Rothman Calls for FEMA Assistance to Help Bergen and Passaic Counties Recover from October Snowstorm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Aaron Keyak

office: (202) 225-5061

cell: (202) 905-6361

email: [aaron.keyak@mail.house.gov](mailto:aaron.keyak@mail.house.gov)

Washington, DC &ndash; On December 1, 2011, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) and Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) wrote a letter to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator William Craig Fugate, asking for recovery assistance to Bergen and Passaic Counties for damages from the October 29, 2011 snow storm.

The text of the letter:

December 1, 2011

Administrator William Craig Fugate  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, SW  
Room 700  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

We are writing to request that you extend Public Assistance to Bergen and Passaic Counties in our Congressional Districts to assist in the recovery from the severe damage caused by the October 29, 2011 snow storm in New Jersey.

We appreciate the President's approval of our state's request for a Major Disaster Declaration last night. We were glad to hear that Hazard Mitigation funding was granted to all counties in our state. However, we are extremely concerned that Bergen and Passaic Counties were not included in the initial declaration for Public Assistance. We understand that review of the damage in these counties is ongoing, and that they may be added to the emergency declaration. We are writing to urge you to extend assistance to Bergen and Passaic Counties as soon as possible.

The unseasonable storm caused significant damage in these two counties. As a result of the snow, heavy rain, and high winds, thousands of our constituents were without power, water, or heating for days, downed trees and wires restricted travel, and county and local governments incurred millions in recovery costs. In Bergen County, five lives were lost to house fires and vehicle accidents.

It is clear from the magnitude of the damage in our districts that recovery efforts will be beyond the means of state and local budgets. Our communities will need federal help to rebuild and recover from this severe storm.

Thank you for your timely consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

BILL PASCRELL, JR.

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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