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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3222

September 22, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

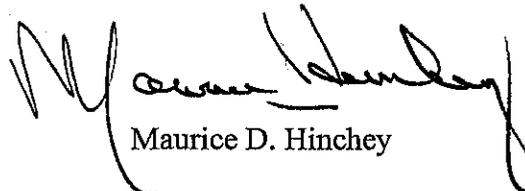
Thank you for all the support you and your administration has provided to New York in response to recent natural disasters that caused widespread damage across the state. I am writing to urge you to quickly approve supporting Governor Andrew Cuomo's request for Individual and Public Assistance through FEMA for homeowners, renters, local governments and small businesses in Ulster and Orange counties affected by Tropical Storm Lee.

Ulster and Orange counties took a one-two punch from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Just when some of these communities began rebuilding from Irene, a second round of flooding from Lee washed away much of their hard work. Now they need to start the recovery work again. Additional federal assistance is needed to help families, farmers, small businesses and local communities to once again being to recover and rebuild from massive flooding and wind damage.

Many New Yorkers will not be able to afford repairs without FEMA's Public and Individual Assistance programs and activation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. I ask that you approve the Governor's request as quickly as possible.

Thank you again for all the assistance the federal government has provided New York and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Maurice D. Hinchey

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