

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today spoke with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator W. Craig Fugate to request additional help in the aftermath of floods caused by the one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Hinchey urged the Administrator to expedite the approval of a Major Disaster Declaration for Broome, Delaware and Tioga Counties, all of which experienced devastating floods following several days of torrential downpours.

"The flooding that has occurred throughout the Southern Tier, in places like Binghamton and Owego, has had a devastating impact," said Hinchey. "My heart goes out to the families, small businesses and farmers who have been affected. Today I called FEMA Administrator Fugate to ask for an expedited disaster declaration so that federal resources can be made available as quickly as possible. He assured me FEMA would do everything possible to help Southern Tier residents get back on their feet. People need help right now, and I'm going to fight for every last dime needed to help the region recover."

On Thursday, Hinchey requested a Federal Emergency Declaration for six New York Counties, including Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga and Tompkins, where flood waters had risen to catastrophic levels. The designation was subsequently granted, making federal resources available to mitigate flood damage, save lives, protect property and public infrastructure, and ensure public health and safety. Hinchey has now urged FEMA to quickly approve a Major Disaster Declaration, which would provide assistance for families, small businesses and farmers and rebuild public infrastructure. He has also introduced legislation and has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expedite and provide additional assistance to farmers affected by the flooding.