

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 1, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

Governor Murphy has formally requested that a Major Disaster Declaration be declared due to the damage caused by Tropical Storm Isaias on August 4, 2020. We are writing to urge you to approve this request to ensure New Jersey receives the assistance it needs to fully recover from this storm.

Tropical Storm Isaias dumped up to five inches of rain in some parts of New Jersey, and damaged public and private property with tropical storm force winds. Approximately 1.4 million New Jersey residents lost power during the storm, which knocked down power lines and forced water systems to run on emergency power.

Preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) concluded that 11 counties – Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Monmouth, Morris, Salem, and Sussex – have exceeded the per capita threshold necessary for federal assistance. In addition, the statewide damage per capita is more than double the threshold set for fiscal year 2020. The majority of costs relate to debris removal, the burden of which largely falls on communities and local governments.

While the immediate response by state and local emergency responders was robust and professional, the size and power of this storm created a significant burden on our state's resources. We therefore urge you to support Governor Murphy's request by issuing a Major Disaster Declaration, granting Public Assistance for the counties of Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Monmouth, Morris, Salem, and Sussex.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to a prompt response to our request.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator

/s/  
CORY A. BOOKER  
United States Senator

/s/  
FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
BILL PASCRELL, JR.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
ANDY KIM  
Member of Congress

/s/  
TOM MALINOWSKI  
Member of Congress

/s/  
BONNIE WATSON-COLEMAN  
Member of Congress

/s/  
MIKIE SHERRILL  
Member of Congress

/s/  
JOSH GOTTHEIMER  
Member of Congress

/s/  
ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress

/s/  
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress

/s/  
JEFF VAN DREW  
Member of Congress

/s/  
DONALD NORCROSS  
Member of Congress