Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 2, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

Governor Murphy has formally requested a Major Disaster Declaration for all 21 counties in the State of New Jersey in response to Tropical Strom Ida. We urge you to approve this request to ensure New Jersey has all the resources available to manage this disaster.

Tropical Storm Ida has devastated our state through historic flash flooding, tornadoes, and record rainfalls. Tragically, at least 23 New Jerseyans have lost their lives due to the storm. Tropical Storm Ida poured inches of rain across our state, causing homes, businesses, highways and transit systems to become flooded. The damage from the storm has caused thousands of homes and businesses to remain without power. Flood damage to homes has displaced families, forcing them to seek temporary shelter. FEMA Individual Assistance is necessary to help New Jerseyans with housing and other critical expenses. In addition, highways and roads remain inundated with water, preventing critical recovery efforts. These extraordinary challenges require high water vehicles to carry out disaster recovery efforts. Leveraging FEMA resources will help our state have the necessary tools to swiftly provide relief to our constituents and recover from Tropical Storm Ida.

Furthermore, our mass transit systems have suffered significant damage, causing service disruptions for our residents and travelers. At Newark Liberty Airport, water flooded passenger and baggage areas have caused a ripple of flight cancellations and delays. Teterboro Airport remains closed due to significant flooding on all main roads around the facility. NJ Transit, our state's passenger rail network, remains inoperable due to downed trees and flooded areas. FEMA Public Assistance is critical in quickly restoring our state's infrastructure and essential transit systems.

We urge you to promptly approve Governor Murphy's request a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of New Jersey. We appreciate your consideration of the request.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator

CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator

BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress

DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

MIKIE SHERRILL
Member of Congress

DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress

ANDY KIM
Member of Congress

JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress

JEFF VAN DREW
Member of Congresss