

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2006

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

As you are aware, the massive flooding from storms beginning on June 26, 2006 has wrought a significant disaster upon our constituents across the Mid-Atlantic. Three weeks later, our offices are hearing from thousands who are struggling to recover from damage to businesses, homes, hospitals, water infrastructure, and farmlands. We are grateful for the support being provided to these families, governments, non-profit organizations and businesses by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration, but we are concerned that there are a significant number of needs that simply cannot be met by the existing array of services.

While it is still too early to tell what the final cost of this disaster will be, we hope that you will request emergency assistance to help cover its resulting currently-unmet needs in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Such aid is especially needed in the following areas:

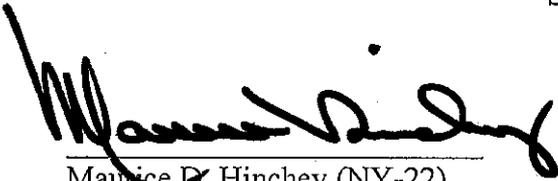
- **Repairs and Improvements to Water Infrastructure.** Many of us represent areas of the region where aging flood control and water treatment infrastructure virtually guarantees structural failures anytime there are serious storm events. Consequently, floods recur in areas that are in desperate need of major flood control upgrades, without which additional lives and property may be lost. Similarly, wastewater and sewage treatment plants failed in many of our districts, resulting in raw sewage being flushed directly into waterways, creating additional health and safety concerns. While we do not currently have cost estimates for improving and repairing some of the oldest and most problematic infrastructure in the region, we do know that we will require federal assistance in order to save lives and property by preventing systems failures in the future.
- **Assistance to Farmers.** The northeastern United States is home to a diverse array of dairy and agricultural production, much of which was impacted by the flooding. These farmers are in desperate need of indemnification for crop losses, funding to assist the clearing of debris, and watershed protection assistance. In fact, many of the impacted are small family farmers with heavy debt loads whose needs are simply not addressed by commodity farm programs.

- **Aid for Economic Recovery.** The flooding hurt hospitals, schools, businesses, and non-profit organizations whose needs simply cannot be met by the current federal assistance. Grant funding to assist these entities is essential for the continued development of our communities, many of which are heavy tourism areas, that continue to feel the economic impact of the flood damage.

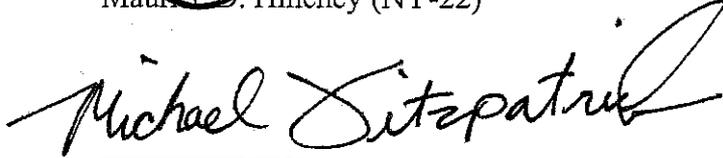
As we learn much more in the coming weeks about the full impact of this disaster, the assurance of federal aid to assist those in trouble will do much to ease the anxieties of communities across our Districts. We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks on the development of our request.

Thank you for your consideration. Best regards.

Sincerely,



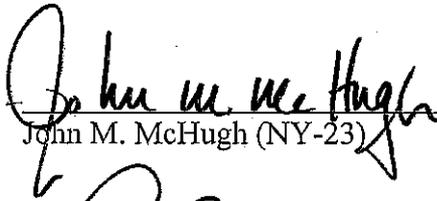
Maurice D. Hinchey (NY-22)



Michael D. Fitzpatrick (PA-8)



Scott Garrett (NJ-5)



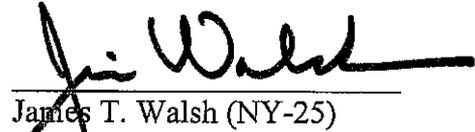
John M. McHugh (NY-23)



Paul E. Kanjorski (PA-11)



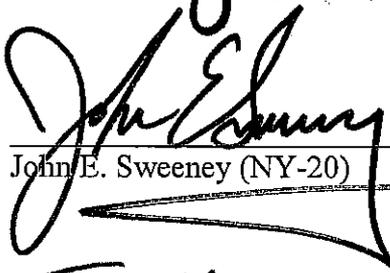
Rush Holt (NJ-12)



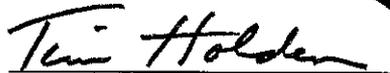
James T. Walsh (NY-25)



Sherwood Boehlert (NY-24)



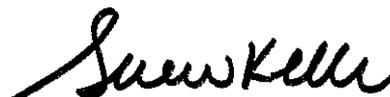
John E. Sweeney (NY-20)



Tim Holden (PA-17)



Michael McNulty (NY-21)



Sue Kelly (NY-19)