

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2013

Secretary Shaun Donovan
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan,

We are writing to urge that you include critical funding for Connecticut in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) emergency funding that is allocated by your agency for disaster relief.

We are pleased that Congress passed and the President signed into law, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (H.R. 152), which includes much needed assistance for Connecticut families, businesses and communities. The \$16 billion for CDBG emergency funding included in the disaster assistance package is critical for those displaced residents impacted by the storm.

It is imperative that Connecticut be included in CDBG funding allocations as this was not the case when our state was severely impacted last year with Tropical Storm Irene and a heavy snowfall in October. More people in Connecticut have registered for FEMA assistance than in either of the previous storms, and we cannot afford to be left out again.

Hurricane Sandy was one of the most severe storms to hit Connecticut in our state's history. According to the United States Army Corp of Engineers, water levels at the Stamford Hurricane Barrier exceeded all recorded storms, dating back to 1893. Connecticut endured catastrophic coastal flooding and damaging winds, in some areas surpassing the coastal damage levels of the Hurricane of 1938.

In October, President Obama declared a disaster for Connecticut with total estimated damage of approximately \$660 million, a majority of which is residential. This is the fourth major disaster that our state has experienced over the past 19 months, and the fifth since 2010. Damages from the last three storms are estimated to cost \$1.04 billion.

Over 12,000 people in Connecticut have applied for individual assistance. There are several pockets of severe damage where hundreds of homes were left more than 50 percent damaged. Without adequate assistance, there is no other solution but to demolish these homes and keep the land as open space which would cripple several coastal communities' tax bases. As individuals and families work to recover from the devastation that Sandy has left in its wake, it is critically important that they have flexible federal assistance to rebuild and recover.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to address the needs of the American people in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. We ask you to ensure that Connecticut is provided the funds it needs to rebuild and recover.

Sincerely,

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator

Christopher Murphy

Christopher Murphy
U.S. Senator

Rosa DeLauro

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

John B. Larson

John Larson
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

Joseph Courtney
Member of Congress

James Himes

James Himes
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress