

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 1, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear President Obama:

We write to bring to your attention dire circumstances that are affecting New Jersey in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and want to request additional resources from the federal government. We know that you saw some of the devastation yesterday - and very much appreciate your visit, your concern, and the promise of resources for the communities and people of New Jersey.

We are learning from our county offices of emergency management (OEMs) that there are critical shortages of gasoline and diesel fuel. They have told us they are running out of these resources to run their emergency vehicles and critical infrastructure, such as sewage waste water treatment, and drinking water and sanitation facilities. We are dealing with a crisis on the ground with rescue and recovery where millions are without power and without basic necessities. Furthermore, our constituents are sitting in lines up to a mile long waiting to fuel their vehicles, tying up local resources that are managing traffic conditions in these areas. Additional resources are needed to transport fuel to those gasoline stations that do have power.

In addition, electric utilities have requested that FEMA airlift additional equipment, such as backup generators, dryers, and fuel supplies, into the state to assist their efforts in restoring power. This equipment will help accelerate their efforts to restore power and provide critical resources that would otherwise not be available.

You have shown extraordinary leadership helping us cope with this terrible storm and we urge you to use the full force of the federal government, including using military assets, to bring this needed help to our state. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG


ROBERT MENENDEZ

Cc: The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Secretary, Department of Defense
The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency