

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2013

Honorable W. Craig Fugate
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Administrator
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate,

We write you today to express our growing concern with the length of time it is taking to process National Flood Insurance policy claims in New Jersey. Governor Chris Christie recently brought to our attention some rather disturbing statistics related to the backlog of claims. According to the Governor, as of February 5, more than 85 percent of Hurricane Sandy related private homeowners' insurance claims have been closed while only 30 percent of Sandy related National Flood Insurance claims have been closed.

New Jerseyans have suffered tremendous hardships since Hurricane Sandy struck last fall. We must do everything we can to respond to them as quickly as possible, but right now the National Flood Insurance Program is failing our constituents. It's been over three months since Hurricane Sandy tore through our state and yet 70 percent of those who filed claims with the NFIP continue to wait. This is unacceptable. According to the Governor's office this backlog exists despite the fact there were 241,000 fewer national flood insurance claims than private homeowners insurance claims.

We understand that after a natural disaster the size and scope of Sandy there might be a backlog, but these statistics are alarming. These unacceptable backlogs must be addressed quickly so that our constituents can rebuild their homes. In order to ensure that this problem is addressed in a timely manner we ask that you please provide us a detailed description of how you plan to address the backlog of claims.

We thank you for your time and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



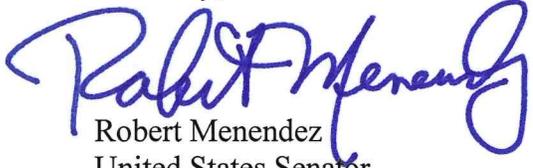
Scott Garrett
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

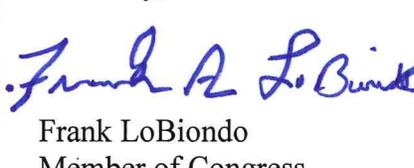


Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator

Sincerely,


Robert Menendez
United States Senator

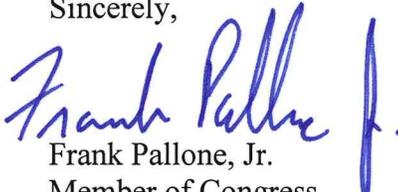
Sincerely,


Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress

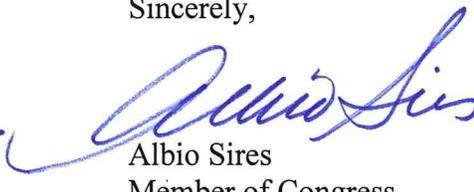
Sincerely,


Rush Holt
Member of Congress

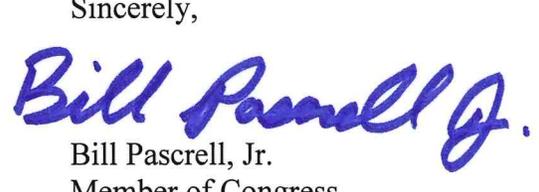
Sincerely,


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Chris Smith
Member of Congress