United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 27, 2026

The Honorable President Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write in support of the State of New Jersey's October 26, 2026, request for a Major Disaster Declaration after a powerful nor'easter impacted the State of New Jersey over the period of September 23-29, 2026. Given the magnitude and severity of this incident, the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation requested by the State are crucial to the recovery of the communities that were impacted. We urge you to approve the Governor's request for all categories of Public Assistance (PA) in Atlantic, Cape May, and Monmouth Counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

The heavy rain, high winds, and large wave activity that the State of New Jersey experienced beginning on September 23 caused severe erosion in Atlantic City and other coastal towns. Atlantic City Beach Patrol officials said, for example, that the nor'easter caused "the worst beach erosion the city has seen since Hurricane Sandy," leaving steep drop-offs along the shoreline and erasing dune system refurbishments that were completed only two years ago.[1] Brigantine and Ocean City in Atlantic and Cape May Counties, respectively, also reported significant erosion and damage to their dunes. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Atlantic City tidal gauge data showed that it was the fifth-highest event out of 115 years of recordings for erosion potential.[2] At several sites, the peak water levels came within one foot of levels produced by Superstorm Sandy.

The widespread erosion and dune breaches, in combination with the heavy rainfall and large wave activity, also contributed to extensive flooding, causing significant damage and leading to dozens of water rescues, including 45 vehicle-related water rescues in Atlantic City alone. In some communities, floodwater reached chest level, and emergency responders evacuated people from

[1] "Nor'easter caused worst beach erosion in Atlantic City, New Jersey, since Hurricane Sandy, officials say," CBS News Philadelphia (Sept. 27, 2026) (https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/atlantic-city-noreaster-news/).
[2] "Officials in N.J. say there's no 'quick fix' to severe erosion as coastal towns brace for another nor'easter," *Philly Voice* (Oct. 19, 2026) (https://www.phillyvoice.com/new-jersey-erosion-noreaster-septemeber-2026/).

water-threatened structures. Storm winds brought down trees and utility lines, which led to more than 30,000 outages and serious damage to infrastructure.

While Atlantic, Cape May, and Monmouth Counties experienced the most extensive and concentrated damage, the late September storm had statewide impact. Wind gusts reached 52 miles per hour as far inland as Trenton, New Jersey. The extensive flooding made some roads impassable, and damage to homes, businesses, and public facilities disrupted essential functions and services statewide. Coastal protection features to mitigate the storm surge, such as locally engineered beaches and dunes, likely lessened the scale of catastrophic loss, but local communities are even more resource-constrained following a February snowstorm that damaged critical infrastructure and public facilities. These factors further demonstrate the need for a Major Disaster Declaration and why federal support is so critical.

The joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for PA documented extensive emergency work, including debris removal and emergency protective measures, and the need for permanent work on public infrastructure. The joint PDA validated damages totaling nearly $27 million of eligible costs, far surpassing the State disaster declaration threshold. The PDA additionally determined that all three of the most impacted counties—Atlantic, Cape May, and Monmouth—exceeded their per capita indicator for PA, with countywide per capita losses ranging from $13.16 to $144.65. While local governments and the State work to respond to this event, including full activation of their emergency management capabilities, federal support is needed to ensure a full recovery for the people of New Jersey.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter and careful consideration of New Jersey's ongoing request for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation. We urge your speedy approval of this request, and we look forward to working with you to ensure New Jersey's residents receive the timely federal support they need.

Sincerely,

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Andy Kim
United States Senator