

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 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 strong support of the State of New Jersey's effort to appeal the denial of the State's request for a Major Disaster Declaration stemming from a severe winter storm during the period of February 22-23, 2026. In light of the significant and costly impacts across nearly the entire state of New Jersey, the Governor requested Public Assistance, including snow assistance, for Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, and Union Counties, and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

As you know, the State of New Jersey originally requested disaster assistance on April 7, 2026, and a bipartisan group of New Jersey Congressional delegation members wrote in support of the request. Unfortunately, in a letter dated July 2, 2026, the request was denied.

The Preliminary Damage Assessments for Public Assistance across 19 counties documented extensive emergency work, including snow removal, debris removal, and damage to critical infrastructure and public facilities. This severe winter storm brought heavy snow and strong winds throughout the State. According to data from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, approximately 24 inches of snow fell in less than 24 hours across eastern and central New Jersey, and eight of the State's 21 counties recorded record or near-record snowfall totals and qualify as "core counties" as laid out by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG). Another four counties met the "contiguous county" requirements for snow assistance outlined in the PAPPG. Although seven counties included in this request narrowly missed the requirements to be considered a core or contiguous county, they experienced operational and resource demands equivalent to those of their adjacent designated core counties and should be included in any declaration.

Severe blizzard conditions led to widespread damage—overwhelming State and local capacity. Tragically, this fatal event resulted in 12 confirmed weather-related fatalities across nine counties, the most out of any impacted state. During the storms, power outages affected 127,230 customers statewide. There were 544 motor vehicle accidents, and 1,518 motor vehicle-related assists. Additionally, moderate coastal flooding occurred across much of New Jersey's open

coastline, particularly in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management estimates that the total disaster costs will exceed \$100 million—more than five times greater than the minimum state threshold for federal disaster assistance.

We ask that you take into account the full breadth of factors that negatively impacted New Jersey and immediately approve the Governor's outstanding request for assistance. This includes a strained capacity to respond due to a severe snow and ice storm just weeks earlier and six open federal disaster declarations.

A careful review of the State of New Jersey's appeal demonstrates that this request far exceeds all Stafford Act statutory and regulatory thresholds. The extent of the damage, the operational burden throughout the State, and the cumulative impacts of recent and related extreme weather all provide overwhelming evidence that New Jersey's request must be granted. While we commend the actions of the State and local governments to respond thus far, full recovery will require your approval of federal resources.

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 look forward to working with you to ensure all Americans receive protection and support from the federal government in the aftermath of a serious disaster.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Cory A. Booker, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

A blue ink signature of Andy Kim, written in a cursive style.

Andy Kim
United States Senator

A black ink signature of Analilia Mejia, written in a cursive style.

Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress

A black ink signature of Herbert C. Conaway, Jr., written in a cursive style.

Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



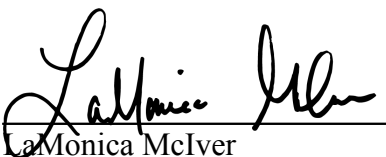
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress