

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 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,

As members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation, we write in support of the State of New Jersey's April 7, 2026, request for a Major Disaster Declaration due to a severe winter storm and snowstorm during the period of February 22-23, 2026. Given the magnitude and severity of this incident, the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation requested by Governor Sherrill are crucial to the recovery of the communities that were impacted throughout the State. We urge you to approve the Governor's request for Public Assistance (PA), 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 (HM) statewide.

The severe winter storm the State of New Jersey experienced on Sunday, February 22, 2026, through Monday, February 23, 2026, brought heavy snow and strong winds throughout the State. Eight of the State's 21 Counties recorded record or near-record snowfall totals, as approximately 24 inches of snow fell in less than 24 hours across eastern and central New Jersey. The State of New Jersey's capacity to respond to and recover from this late-February storm was already strained by a series of significant storms. For example, the State currently has six open federal declarations and has been impacted by numerous storms for which no major declarations were received, the most recent of which occurred less than one month before this event and resulted in 18 inches of snow across much of New Jersey.

The late-February storm had a severe statewide impact. The Office of the State Medical Examiner confirmed 12 weather-related fatalities across nine Counties. Power outages affected 127,230 customers statewide. Between February 22 and February 24, 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 Preliminary Damage Assessments for PA across 19 counties documented extensive emergency work, including snow removal, debris removal, and damage to critical infrastructure and public facilities. The joint PDAs report \$84.4 million of eligible costs, a sum that exceeds

the State disaster declaration threshold by more than four times. The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management estimates that the total disaster costs will exceed \$100 million. While the State has invested considerable resources into this event, federal support is needed to ensure a full recovery for the people of New Jersey.

Therefore, we reiterate our full support for the April 7, 2026, request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation. We are grateful for your consideration of this request and thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Andy Kim  
United States Senator



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



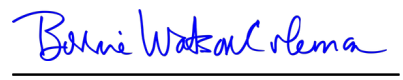
Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress