



January 30, 2013

Mr. William L. Vogel
Federal Coordinating Officer
307 Middletown Lincroft Road
Lincroft, NJ 07738

Dear Mr. Vogel:

We are writing to provide you with some new information that should be taken into account in regard to the recent Public Assistance application filed by the Camp Meeting Association which requested funding to repair the Ocean Grove Boardwalk. As you may know, this vital public thoroughfare was severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy.

It is our understanding that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may consider the Camp Meeting Association application for Public Assistance as a private non-profit and that the boardwalk could be determined a non-critical service. After discussions with the Camp Meeting Association, we believe that the association does function as a local government entity and is instrumental in providing traditional municipal services to the residents of Ocean Grove, New Jersey. We are also confident that the Ocean Grove Boardwalk is an essential public resource which provides access for emergency services, augments flood protection measures, and functions as a public roadway.

The Boardwalk has been recognized as public property and dedicated as a public roadway since at least 1908 when a Monmouth County court ruling exempted it from taxation because of the boardwalk's previous designation as a "public highway." The boardwalk, which provides access to communities both north (Asbury Park) and south (Bradley Beach) of Ocean Grove, has also been clearly recognized in court rulings as a public facility.

Furthermore, the federal government has previously provided the Camp Meeting Association funding for beach erosion control and repair projects. Specifically, FEMA provided the Camp Meeting Association with Public Assistance for repairing the very same Ocean Grove Boardwalk in 1983 after it was damaged by the December 11, 1982, winter coastal storm.

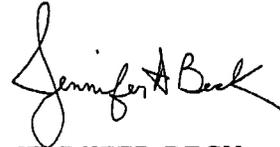
Hopefully, FEMA will consider the Camp Meeting Association's application as critical and essential and regard it as one filed by a local government or special district.

Because of the need to quickly repair the Ocean Grove Boardwalk, we strongly recommend FEMA's timely approval of Public Assistance funds to repair this vital community asset.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



JENNIFER BECK
New Jersey State Senator



MARY PAT ANGELINI
Assemblywoman



CAROLINE CASAGRANDE
Assemblywoman