

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2016

The Honorable Julián Castro
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Castro:

We are writing today to express our deep concern over the allocation of funding from the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) and HUD's decision to award the State of New Jersey a mere \$15 million of the nearly \$1 billion designated for the program. We respectfully request a briefing from you on the NDRC decision and the state of New Jersey's application.

In the best interest of serving our constituents in New Jersey, each of us have serious questions regarding this decision, the process by which it was made and the serious implications it raises for our state and New Jersey families, both those impacted by Superstorm Sandy and those potentially impacted by future storms.

From the beginning, many of us expressed concerns regarding the competition and the diversion of much need resources—which we fought for and secured with passage of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (Public Law 113-2) to assist the victims of Superstorm Sandy—away from the impacted areas to other states when the damage was minimal or to states not impacted at all by the storm. In our May 8, 2014 meeting with HUD, we emphasized the significant unmet need in New Jersey, the backlog that remained for individuals still awaiting assistance over a year and a half after the storm hit, and how the decision would shift funding away from the core challenges including housing, infrastructure and economic recovery that persisted in our state. Despite the concerns we raised, the administration moved forward with the decision to allot the funding in this manner.

While we believe that all areas across the country should be prepared and ready in the event of severe weather, our initial concerns have been validated—hundreds of millions of dollars specifically designated for the Sandy response and recovery are now going toward projects that will not assist victims still desperate for support from the hard hit East Coast states and to areas not impacted by Superstorm Sandy.

We appreciate your time and attention to this matter and look forward to your prompt response with available dates and times for this meeting.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN
Member of Congress



FRANK LOBIONDO
Member of Congress



LEONARD LANCE
Member of Congress



TOM MACARTHUR
Member of Congress



SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress