



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 30, 2014

The Honorable Shaun Donovan  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street S.W., Room 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan:

We look forward to meeting with you in response to our April 8th letter to discuss several issues confronting New Jersey victims of Superstorm Sandy who are still in desperate need of assistance to rebuild and recover eighteen months after the storm. Yesterday's pre-meeting briefing with your disaster recovery team and our staff members was helpful, but underscores the need to discuss several significant concerns with you directly.

In our previous letter, and again at yesterday's meeting, we expressed our deep concerns about the possible proposal to redirect remaining Sandy funds to a national resiliency competition. This issue was originally amplified in the March 31st letter from New Jersey State Senators, which we transmitted to you and has since been discussed in recent news reports. We remain strongly opposed to this proposal, which would be purely discretionary on the Administration's part. As you know in New Jersey, we still face significant unmet needs in core recovery sectors—including housing, infrastructure and economic recovery. To divert remaining funding from these core challenges, as people are backlogged in the system awaiting assistance to return to their homes, is unjust and unacceptable.

It is our understanding that the resiliency proposal is under review as are formula concepts for what is expected to be the third and final tranche of funding. In our meeting we would like to reiterate that the third round of funding must prioritize the core sectors that still face billions of dollars in unmet need, and further discuss the seemingly inexplicable \$4 billion discrepancy between federal funding support for New York and New Jersey. In addition, we would like to further discuss concerns we have with the inability of thousands of applicants to New Jersey's Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation, and Mitigation (RREM) Program to begin reconstruction of their homes without the possibility of being penalized if work began prior to an environmental approval.

We stand ready to meet with you as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and attention.



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



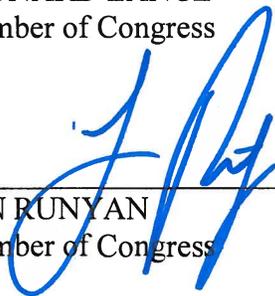
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LEONARD LANCE  
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