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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 2, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to request that you issue a Presidential major disaster declaration for Mercer County which is located in my New Jersey Congressional District. While damage in Mercer does not reach the mass devastation found in Ocean and Monmouth Counties which are also in my Congressional District and have received major disaster declarations – damage is significant in Mercer, including the loss of life.

Every single community in Mercer County has been affected significantly. Thousands of trees are down and while some power has been restored, over 90 percent of Mercer residents lost power. Given the intensity of Sandy, Mercer County and local governments were exceedingly hard pressed to provide essential emergency services. For example, police had to deal with hundred's traffic signals that were inoperable, numerous road closings including those leading to major interstates, and power outages at critical facilities including many senior citizen facilities and nursing homes.

At this time, crews are still out in force in Mercer trying to restore power, opening roadways, and dealing with medical emergencies. Several senior housing complexes are still without power.

Considering the extremely high preliminary damage estimates that are now coming in for Mercer County and its communities, I hereby respectfully ask that after proper review, you issue a major disaster declaration for the county. In the interim, I would be pleased to provide any assistance necessary in fulfilling this request, and thank you for the help the federal government is now providing in New Jersey and my fourth Congressional District.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

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