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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

October 8, 2013

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DEAN, NEW JERSEY DELEGATION

Mr. W. Craig Fugate  
Department Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington DC, 20472

Dear Mr. Fugate:

I appreciate the help you have provided me in the past regarding matters related to New Jersey's ongoing efforts to recover from the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy which struck my state almost a year ago. One of the issues we discussed during the meeting in my office earlier this year was how to best fund the rebuilding of the Ocean Grove boardwalk.

After considerable deliberation, the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association decided to appeal the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region II decision. While there may be other sources of funding available, representatives of the association believe Ocean Grove is eligible for FEMA funding to rebuild the boardwalk. They are rightly concerned that imprecise and inconsistent decision making could set precedents for future FEMA aid and other federal funding, especially since federal agencies including FEMA have provided assistance to Ocean Grove in the past.

The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association and other stakeholders in this second appeal strongly believe an oral presentation is needed because of past deliberations, its complex nature, and the significance of the appeal. An oral presentation would provide the dialogue necessary to properly clarify the long-standing public private partnership the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association maintains with Neptune Township and to accurately explain how the boardwalk is used.

I am hopeful you will agree that an oral presentation would be most helpful and the best way to properly consider and review this important appeal. Again thank you for your help in the past and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress

Co-Chairman of the following member organizations: Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease • Bi-Partisan Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism • Lyme Disease Caucus  
Coalition for Autism Research and Education • Global Internet Freedom Caucus • Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus • Bosnia Caucus • Poland Caucus  
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