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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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February 11, 2013

The Honorable Chris Smith
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

I understand that you will soon be presenting a bill to Congress which would provide federal funding in the form of grants to houses of worship which were devastated by the hurricane last October.

I applaud your efforts and offer my full support for this bill. Volunteers from the Catholic churches as well as all other denominations were on the front line with food, clothing, shelter and other basic necessities as soon as the storm passed. They were surely the first responders and just as surely will be there as long as they are needed. To exclude houses of worship from which these volunteers have come is a grave injustice.

On behalf of the clergy, religious and lay people who live and work within the Diocese of Trenton, I thank you for being our advocate and for taking the initiative to introduce this bill on behalf of all faith communities.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton