

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We are writing in full support of the State of Vermont's request for disaster assistance for flood damage sustained during the period of June 25 through July 11 of this year.

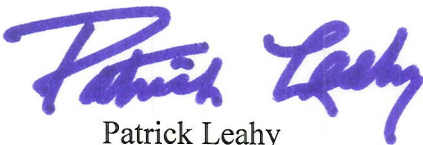
During this period, Vermont endured four times the normal rainfall for this time of year, which came close on the heels of record rainfall in May. According to the National Weather Service, this period is defined by a single incident during which a trapped tropical air mass was stationed over Vermont, generating almost continuous and intense rain. Ensuing flash flooding caused significant damage to local and state roads, bridges, water and sewer facilities and other public infrastructure across much of the state.

Caledonia, Chittenden, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, and Windsor Counties experienced the majority of the damage. Preliminary Damage Assessments conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) confirm costs that exceed the threshold for Public Assistance for each of these counties.

In the past 12 months, the State of Vermont has experienced two presidentially declared major disasters (DR4066 and DR4120), and our small state is still recovering from the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 (DR4022). This most recent disaster places significant additional burdens on our state and local governments.

The State of Vermont has relied on its partnership with FEMA and other federal agencies tasked with facilitating disaster relief, to effectively respond to and recover from these past disasters. We respectfully request federal assistance now as the State again finds itself responding to yet more flooding.

Sincerely,



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Representative