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INTERIOR

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

Washington, DC 20515-3222

September 21, 2004

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Honorable George E. Pataki  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

By Fax and Mail: (518) 474-1513

Dear Governor Pataki:

I am writing to urge that you immediately request a Major Disaster Declaration from President Bush for the heavy rains and flooding that occurred in Broome, Delaware, Sullivan and Tioga counties on September 17 through September 19. As you know, this is the second major disaster that has hit the region in less than a month. While I applaud your recent decision to ask President Bush for such a declaration for the previous storm and flooding on August 30, I urge your administration to submit its request for aid to President Bush with greater speed so that our communities may get the help they need immediately.

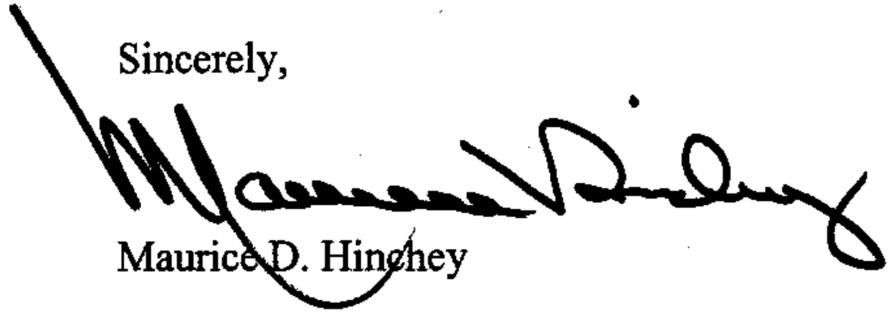
The flash flooding that occurred over the weekend along the tributaries of the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers has left tremendous damage that is much more widespread than the more localized previous flooding event. It is clear that our communities will need federal assistance in order to deal with the damage and property losses left in the wake of this storm, and it is critical that we do take action to make this assistance available without undue delay.

I understand that other states, including Pennsylvania, have made such requests to the President very shortly after the remnants of Hurricane Ivan hit their communities, and I hope that you will consider doing the same. I'm confident that you will agree that the struggling families in Sullivan County cannot afford the luxury of waiting weeks or months to begin applying for much-needed federal assistance. Thank you in advance for your prompt action in this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

  
Maurice D. Hinchey

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