

MAURICE D. HINCHEY  
22ND DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

INTERIOR

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

Washington, DC 20515-3222

September 7, 2004

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[www.house.gov/hinchey](http://www.house.gov/hinchey)

Honorable George E. Pataki  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224  
By Fax and Mail: (518) 474-1513

Dear Governor Pataki:

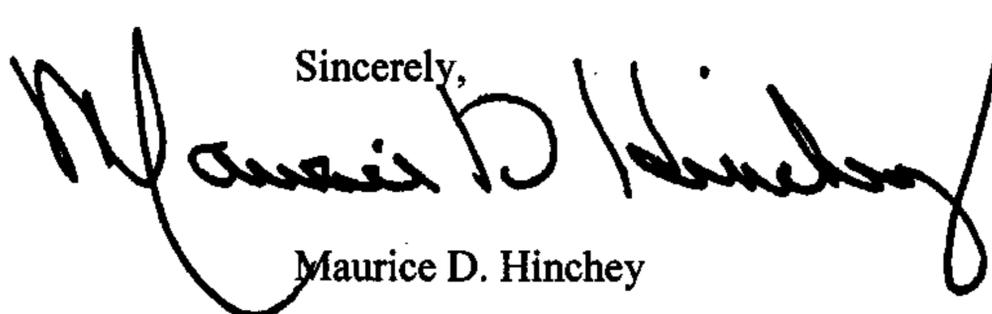
I am writing in regards to the extensive property damage along the Pine Kill Creek in the Town of Mamakating in Sullivan County that resulted from the recent storm on August 30, 2004 and subsequent flooding. I recently toured the impacted area with local, county and state officials and personally observed the severe damage to private homes, roads and bridges in the Westbrookville area of the Town. Residents in this area, as well as the Town of Mamakating and the County of Sullivan, urgently need financial assistance in order to rebuild and repair in the wake of this severe flooding. The nearby Town of Deerpark in Orange County was also severely impacted by the same flooding event.

I understand that SEMO is currently assessing the flooding damage and will be issuing a recommendation to you in the very near future. I hope you will request a Major Disaster Declaration from the President as soon as possible in order to assist the many residents who face significant losses and damage to their homes from the flooding. As you know, this declaration will enable residents and local municipalities to access federal assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and help local communities deal with the tremendous financial burdens resulting from this storm.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at my Middletown District Office if I can be of any assistance with FEMA or other federal agencies. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important matter.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Maurice D. Hinchey

cc: Hon. Christopher Cunningham  
Hon. Charles Penna, Town of Mamakating  
Richard Martinkovic

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