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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

STEVE ISRAEL

Second District, New York

October 31, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The fury of Hurricane Sandy tore down power lines, decimated substations and left the Long Island and New York energy grid severely damaged. Today, roughly 90% of customers served by the Long Island Power Authority and nearly 700,000 served by Con Edison are left without power.

The work by FEMA and first responders locally to address life saving and critical needs has been tremendous. However, we are now experiencing a power emergency. Temperatures are dropping, gas stations are without power, and cell phone service is weakened. That means we must have a coordinated power restoration effort that includes not only the federal, state and local resources, but also the private sector and utilities.

We realize that different communities that were in the path of Hurricane Sandy are in different stages of recovery and restoration. They all share one common thread - limited access to power. In emergencies like this in the past where there has been widespread devastation, all levels of government and industry must come together for the common good. By putting a Coordinated Power Restoration Command in place, you will ensure that all resources are activated and focused on power restoration. Not only that, but this Command will make certain that we use the most efficient and effective means for getting power to residents as safely and quickly as possible.

Our energy supply is of the utmost importance and we appreciate your efforts to deploy every available federal resource to get New Yorkers power. In the federal response to the Deepwater Horizon BP Spill, a unified command was put in place to maximize coordination and fast track recovery between all levels of government and the private sector. We believe that type of coordinated effort spearheaded by the federal government will expedite energy restoration and that remains our top priority.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Steve Israel in black ink.

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Edward P. Mangano in black ink.

EDWARD P. MANGANO
Nassau County Executive