

Dear Friends,

Although the most dangerous part of Hurricane Irene has passed Long Island, the damage it left behind is substantial – and the cleanup has just begun.

Since the storm, I have been working to ensure that residents and businesses will receive the aid they need to repair damaged infrastructure. On Monday, I did an aerial assessment of flooded and storm-damaged areas with the Coast Guard. I visited a Brentwood shelter and met with evacuees. I have visited with small businesses in Sayville that have been adversely affected by power outages, and I am working with federal and state officials on solutions to speed up debris removal.

Hundreds of thousands of people in our region have been or remain without electricity, and local power companies say it may be until the end of the week before it is restored in all areas. Downed trees and other debris are keeping utility crews from restoring power outages for hundreds of thousands of Long Islanders. We need an “all hands on deck” approach to get the power back on. I have called on FEMA to task the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist with debris removal on Long Island.

Recovering from Hurricane Irene

Friday, September 02, 2011

Governor Cuomo requested and received a major disaster declaration for New York State, which will allow federal funds to be spent on relief projects, including the repair or replacement of hurricane or flood-damaged facilities. We have received word that both Nassau and Suffolk counties have qualified for FEMA public assistance to repair or replace hurricane and flood-damaged facilities and FEMA hazard mitigation assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural disasters. Nassau and Suffolk Counties have also both been approved for Individual Assistance. Residents and business owners who sustained damage or losses from the storm may visit www.disasterassistance.gov to apply for assistance.

As we continue to assess the damage and get our communities up and running, I will be working closely with local officials to ensure they are getting the support they need from FEMA and our federal agencies.

For more information on hurricane recovery efforts, please visit <http://israel.house.gov> .

Sincerely,

Steve Israel
Member of Congress