

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write in support of New Hampshire Governor Christopher Sununu's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of New Hampshire following the damage and expense caused by severe rain and flash flooding between the dates of July 29 and August 2, 2021. The Governor's request includes a designation of the full Public Assistance Program for Cheshire and Sullivan Counties and a statewide designation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

As a result of these storms, New Hampshire communities, specifically those in Cheshire and Sullivan Counties, experienced a combination of slow moving thunderstorms that resulted in severe rain and flash flooding that imposed significant property damage and overwhelmed state, municipal and county budgets and resources. During that timeframe, Cheshire and Sullivan Counties sustained widespread damage to State and local infrastructure. In response, Governor Sununu activated the State Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Operations Center and the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management initiated the appropriate Emergency Support Function lead agencies to ensure an adequate and timely response to the needs of the State. Additionally, the New Hampshire Departments of Transportation and Safety increased staffing levels to aid in response efforts and ensure the safety of citizens.

The magnitude of the damage caused by this storm is such that an effective response is beyond the capacity of New Hampshire's state and local governments, justifying federal assistance. Current verified costs associated with this incident are in excess of \$3.26 million statewide, surpassing the state's per capita benchmark. In addition, due to the substantial costs of infrastructure repairs and response efforts, Cheshire and Sullivan Counties, and the municipalities therein, exceeded their per capita benchmark.

We urge you to grant a Major Disaster Declaration for New Hampshire as soon as possible in order to ensure that our state and towns have access to the resources and assistance they need to fully recover from this emergency. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Maggie Hassan  
United States Senator



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress