

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 9, 2018

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

Dear President Trump:

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 strong winds, large storm surge, and coastal flooding that occurred on March 2-8, 2018. The Governor's request includes a designation of the full Public Assistance Program for Rockingham County and a statewide designation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

As a result of the March 2018 storm, New Hampshire communities, specifically those in Rockingham County, experienced a dangerous combination of strong winds, a large storm surge, and coastal flooding that imposed significant property damage and overwhelmed state, municipal and county budgets and resources. During that timeframe, Rockingham County sustained widespread damage to State and local infrastructure, to include damage to the seawall along the coast. Repetitive high tides, storm surge, strong winds, roadway damage, and seawall debris restricted emergency operations and travel. 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 Department of Transportation 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 is approximately \$3.3 million statewide, surpassing the state's per capita benchmark. In addition, due to the substantial costs of infrastructure repairs and response efforts, Rockingham County, 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,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress