

September 23, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-7010

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

The Northeast region has recently been hit by natural disasters that have devastated communities and destroyed critical public infrastructure vital to public health and safety, and to the economy. Our communities, states, private sector, National Guard and federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), have worked cooperatively and intently on the immediate response, but a long path to recovery lies ahead.

As FEMA disaster assistance funds drop to perilously low levels, the Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) urges prompt action by Congress to provide significant additional disaster assistance emergency funding, including supplemental FY2011 funding. This action is needed to ensure that the Federal government can continue without interruption its critical partnership with states and communities in the Northeast and other regions on disaster response and recovery. We also urge Congress to provide these funds as true emergency funds, consistent with the long tradition of federal response to disasters and also consistent with the Budget Control Act of 2011.

We appreciate your immediate consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

/o.s./  
Deval L. Patrick  
Governor of Massachusetts  
CONEG Chair

/o.s./  
Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor of Rhode Island  
CONEG Vice-Chair

*Identical letters were also provided to House Leadership (Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor and  
Minority Leader Pelosi)*