

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to express our concern about the level of hazard mitigation funding that you have set for New York to rebuild after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In previous disasters, your administration and prior administrations have authorized the equivalent of 15% of FEMA-eligible disaster costs in the state for hazard mitigation. In fact, "The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000" gives you the ability to raise that amount to 20%. However, to date, you have set the level of funding for hazard mitigation at only 5% of the FEMA-eligible disaster costs for New York.

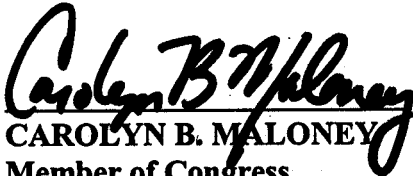
Mr. President, this level of funding has grave implications for the safety and security of New Yorkers. With the current percentage of funding, which FEMA has reported will amount to approximately \$417 million in aid, New York will not be able to take the immediate steps necessary to make the City and the surrounding areas safer. If the level of funding were set at the percentage historically used (15%), then the total amount available would be \$1,261 million, enough to begin the process of making New York City and its citizens safer.


Since your administration has repeatedly stated that another attack is inevitable and since, practically every week, New York City is mentioned in the many threats reported by our intelligence agencies, it is imperative that steps are taken to make New York safer now. Mayor Bloomberg has a list of more than \$900 million worth of necessary safety improvements and, as *The New York Times* recently reported, the state has more than \$6 billion worth of necessary security measures that it is considering. Given that, to date, any additional funds to be provided to localities for first responder measures are all tied to formulas based on population or are limited to a low level of funding per municipality. Therefore, the only way that New York can provide for the safety of its residents will be if you increase the amount of disaster mitigation funding for New York to 15%.

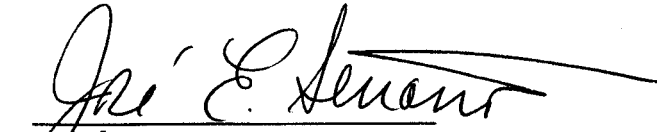
New York City and the state are in a financial bind due to the lost tax revenue in the billions of dollars directly because of 9/11. Because of this factor, and the fact that New York City and Washington, D.C. have the dubious distinction of being the number one targets for terrorists, it is imperative that you provide New York with the help that it needs.

Governor Pataki has appealed your decision to authorize only 5% and is continuing to ask for the maximum amount. We urge you to listen to his appeal and increase the funding level for New York's hazard mitigation program.


Sincerely


  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

  
ANTHONY WEINER  
Member of Congress


  
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JOSÉ SERRANO  
Member of Congress

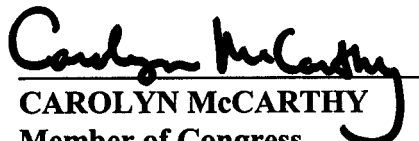
  
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STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress

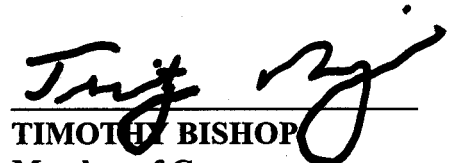
  
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CHARLES RANGEL  
Member of Congress

  
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EDOLPHUS TOWNS  
Member of Congress

  
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ELIOT ENGEL  
Member of Congress

  
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NITA LOWEY  
Member of Congress

  
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CAROLYN McCARTHY  
Member of Congress

  
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TIMOTHY BISHOP  
Member of Congress