Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2011

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, Hurricane Irene is poised to deal a major blow to the East Coast. At this time, the National Weather Service has indicated that the storm is likely to pass directly over Rhode Island or to its West over the weekend. As such, Rhode Island may face a storm that is more powerful than any other it has experienced in decades.

The State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, the Rhode Island National Guard, and local emergency planners are already mobilizing in preparation for this storm. We appreciate the steps FEMA has undertaken to preposition personnel and assets in Rhode Island in support of our state. Given the currently expected intensity of this storm as it nears Rhode Island, we urge you to support and expedite the approval of any forthcoming request for federal assistance, including any requests for emergency or disaster declarations from Governor Chafee.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable W. Craig Fugate

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