

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington DC 20416

Dear Administrator McMahon:

We write to urge you to quickly approve any request made by Governor Raimondo for a disaster declaration in Newport County, Rhode Island, due to a multi-day disruption of the natural gas supply.

On Monday, January 21, 2019, National Grid, Rhode Island's natural gas distributor, suspended gas service to 6,800 gas customers as a precaution due to low pressure in transmission pipelines operated by its natural gas supplier, Algonquin Gas Transmission Co. The disruption lasted several days for many customers during some of the coldest days of the winter. As a result, many customers experienced substantial losses and inconvenience. It is our understanding that the Governor, working in conjunction with SBA and FEMA staff, is preparing a formal request for an SBA disaster declaration in order to help the affected communities recover.

Once a request is formally submitted, we urge you to approve it as quickly as possible so disaster loans can be made available to those who require assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator