

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 8, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I write to request that you authorize an extension to the 100 percent federal cost-share announcement that was made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on November 1st. We thank you for authorizing the 100 percent federal responsibility for 10 days, but the immense scale of Superstorm Sandy's damage and a strong nor'easter that delayed the response mean that emergency public transportation and power restoration efforts will continue past the approaching deadline.

As you know, New Jersey was hit by a nor'easter storm this week that brought strong winds, rain, and snow to many areas already devastated by Sandy. The nor'easter led to an additional 200,000 customers losing power and a total of approximately 390,000 New Jersey residents remain without power as a result of the two storms. The second storm also delayed emergency power restoration teams.

Additionally, persistent power problems and infrastructure damage to New Jersey's transit system continue to hamper full restoration of service, particularly travel from New Jersey into New York City. To assist hundreds of thousands of commuters, New Jersey must rely on additional bus and ferry service for an extended period of time, resulting in significant costs.

I am pleased you granted my recent request for a 100 percent cost-share from the federal government for response costs. The federal support for emergency power and public transportation in our state has been critical to ensuring recovery efforts are able to continue. However, I am concerned that this 100 percent federal coverage has only been authorized through November 9th, even though there remains a significant need for federal support.

I respectfully urge you to expeditiously grant an extension of the 100 percent federal cost share for disaster response efforts. Thank you for your consideration of this important request, and I thank you again for the strong support you and your entire Administration have continued to provide to my state during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Cc: Administrator Craig Fugate, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Secretary Janet Napolitano, Department of Homeland Security