



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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February 18, 2016

CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

Mr. Frank Skaggs, Director
United States Small Business Administration
Office of Disaster Assistance
Field Operations Center - East
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2725

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

Under the provisions of Section 7 of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. § 636, and implemented by 13 CFR Part 123, I request that the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) make a physical disaster declaration applicable to Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Ocean Counties in the State of New Jersey as a result of a severe winter snow storm that began on January 22 and ended on January 24, 2016. Although I also have requested a Presidential Declaration of a Major Disaster under the Stafford Act for this event, unfortunately the damage sustained did not meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) criteria for Individual Assistance, and as such, my request does not seek Individual Assistance and I will not be seeking Individual Assistance.

The winter storm brought blizzard conditions, dangerously high winds, and record snowfall to the State. Powerful winds and dense snowfall caused fallen trees and created power outages for at least 270,000 customers. In addition, a near-full moon on January 22 created high tides across the State, including record high tidal cycles from Friday evening into Saturday morning in at least two locations. These high tides, along with strong offshore winds of 60 miles per hour, contributed to a storm surge that caused coastal flooding in areas of southern New Jersey.

From February 2 through February 5, 2016, representatives from the SBA, FEMA, and State, county, and municipal governments conducted a joint preliminary damage assessment (PDA) in areas throughout New Jersey, including Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Ocean Counties. The PDA substantiated damages in Atlantic County that meet the criteria for a physical disaster of at least 25 homes, 25 businesses, or a combination of 25 homes, businesses, and or other eligible institutions sustaining uninsured losses of at least 40 percent of the estimated fair replacement value or pre-disaster fair market value of the damaged property as required under 13 CFR § 123.3(a)(3)(i). Cape May, Cumberland, and Ocean Counties also meet the criteria for a

physical disaster as contiguous counties to Atlantic County. The SBA Field Assessment Loss Verification Teams provided your Agency with this PDA. A copy of the PDA is enclosed for reference.

Based on the above and pursuant to 13 CFR Part 123, I request that the SBA issue a physical disaster declaration making low interest loans available to those citizens and business owners in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Ocean Counties adversely affected by the severe winter storm that struck the State from January 22-24, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If additional information is required to assist in your determination, please contact Sergeant First Class Jared Beatrice, New Jersey State Police, Public Assistance Unit at 609-358-2399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Christie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Christie
Governor

Enclosure