

ELISE M. STEFANIK

21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE CHAIR

2211 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4611

stefanik.house.gov

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

HOUSE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3221

July 19, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

I write to express concern as flash flooding devastated communities across upstate New York and the North Country over the past few weeks, damaging public infrastructure, family homes, and small businesses. During this event, I have been in touch with local officials and residents who were severely impacted by these recent storms and have seen the devastation firsthand as they now work to coordinate the recovery. These recent storms occurred over multiple weeks, leaving many of these communities with exacerbated damage to their critical infrastructure. As damage assessment and recovery efforts are moving forward, I believe it is critical for the State of New York to work to ensure full restoration for the families, businesses, and neighborhoods affected by these disasters.

Between July 1st and 2nd, Northern Tier communities in Clinton County suffered major damages. The Town of Ellenburg estimates hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages, town-owned roads were compromised, and the Blue Haven Family Campground was flooded and evacuated. The Town of Dannemora declared a state of emergency to deal with the flooding and its devastating impact on roads and property. These storms continued further, with severe flooding also occurring between July 10th and 11th, further portions of our region were impacted, including the Town of Long Lake where a dam breach resulted in State Route 28, the main road between Long Lake and the Town of Newcomb, being severely damaged. The Town of Saranac had large portions of a critical road connecting the town with the rest of the region which now face weeks, and potentially months, of repairs. Municipalities around the region face similar large-scale and resource-intensive infrastructure repairs.

As the representative for many of these communities affected, while New York State works through the disaster assessment and declaration process and your office communicates with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding a federal disaster request, I strongly urge you to coordinate closely with all local communities affected and ensure their needs are fully addressed in both New York State and FEMA disaster aid. Aid to all affected is essential to a full recovery, and upstate New York and the North Country cannot be left out of this essential process. Given that your initial request to FEMA neglected to include the July 1st and 2nd

EAST GREENBUSH
99 TROY ROAD
SUITE 312
EAST GREENBUSH, NY 12061
(518) 242-4707

HERKIMER
108 COURT STREET
SUITE 102
HERKIMER, NY 13350
(315) 219-8005

OGDENSBURG
330 FORD STREET
SUITE B8
OGDENSBURG, NY 13669
(315) 541-2670

PLATTSBURGH
137 MARGARET STREET
SUITE 100
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901
(518) 561-2324

events, I strongly urge you to update that request to include a full, not just partial, accounting of the recent storms and flooding, for Clinton, Essex, and Hamilton. I request you work to move forward with a process that is closely coordinated with those who are on the front lines of this recovery effort.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elise M. Stefanik". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress