

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2011

Mr. W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Director Fugate,

We urgently request your consideration of Governor Shumlin's pending application to extend the Incident Period for Disaster FEMA-4001-DR to the period beginning May 20 through May 27, 2011.

We appreciate your agency's significant efforts in Vermont in response to the spring flooding and during the current disaster declaration period. In particular, FEMA's assistance through the Public Assistance program has helped our towns manage millions of dollars in unforeseen expenses incurred while repairing severe damage to infrastructure.

The same weather system that resulted in the disaster declarations for May 26 and 27 had caused serious damage starting on May 20. By that date, Vermont had received 200% of its average annual rainfall for the season. Rain between May 20 and 27 caused additional, severe flooding, especially in Windham, Washington, Addison, and Franklin Counties. Record river flow caused the water level to rise in Lake Champlain, a level that was already above the flood stage. With additional rain and wind storms, lake water flooded homes and businesses.

According to the State's Preliminary Damage Assessment for that time period, the State has satisfied the requirements for a Major Disaster Declaration for this time period.

Many of the towns affected by the spring flooding during this period were impacted again by Tropical Storm Irene. It is critical that the towns, property owners, and the State receive a timely response to this request so they can receive the support they need for recovery.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



PETER WELCH
United States Representative