

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

September 12, 2011

The Honorable Timothy F. Geithner
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Geithner:

It has been nearly two weeks since then-Tropical Storm Irene hit Vermont widespread flooding wreaked havoc on the state. In addition to our roads, historic covered bridges, and farms that were washed away, there was substantial damage and destruction to homes throughout the state.

Early estimates of the damage show that 700 homes were damaged or destroyed by flood waters with nine mobile home parks partially or completely destroyed by the flooding alone. These numbers are expected to rise dramatically in the coming days as we begin to learn the true impact of the storm.

I am hopeful that you and the Department of the Treasury may be able to provide Vermont assistance in the immediate aftermath of the storm. Flooding throughout the state has left many Vermonters homeless and our small state is currently stretched to the limit. Consequently, I would ask that the Treasury grant relief from certain Low-Income Housing Credit requirements for the storm victims in Vermont, as was recently provided to Alabama in Notice 2011-65.

Currently a number of vacant Housing Credit-financed units in the state cannot be used to provide housing for displaced Vermonters because of the Housing Credit program's income limitations. Easing these restrictions would be instrumental in addressing the immediate housing needs of families who have lost their homes due to the storm. I have included a copy of a letter recently sent to you by Governor Peter Shumlin regarding this request.

Vermont has not seen devastation of this magnitude in my lifetime. I am hopeful you can offer this emergency assistance to Vermont in our time of need. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator