

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 8, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran:

We write to seek your assistance in responding to severe natural disasters that have struck our states this year.

From tornadoes in the southeast and Midwest, to wildfires in the west and southwest, flooding in the Midwest, and the effects of Hurricane Irene on the eastern seaboard and New England, many communities across our country have been hit hard by natural disasters.

Although these events have, in many cases, faded from the headlines, thousands of families in dozens of communities face a long, tough road to rebuild.

Our country has a long history of responsiveness to those who have experienced severe natural disasters. Virtually every time disaster occurs, Congress provides supplemental funding to help those who have been hardest hit. In that vein, we now ask that you consider providing supplemental appropriations for disaster recovery programs as you write your Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 appropriations bills. In particular, we have found the Community Development Block Grant program to be an effective, efficient and flexible tool for providing assistance in past disasters and ask that you consider designating additional CDBG funding for disaster recovery. Likewise, we urge you to provide sufficient funds for the Disaster Relief account to ensure that funding is available in FY12 to assist communities that faced disaster this year.

We recognize the tight fiscal constraints you will be working under this year, and would be happy to work with you to ensure that this assistance is provided in a manner consistent with the spending caps enacted as part of the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ray Bent

Whitmore

Bob

Barbara Nicelli

Ji Webb

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Patrick Leahy

Chuck Schumer

Ray R. Hagan

Jim Striblin
Pat Paul

Gene McAuliffe

Robert Menendez

John J. Kerry

Jim Johnson

Frank R. Lautenberg

Barack

Mark R. Warner

Bob Sanders

Scott P. Brown

Bob Casey, Jr.

John Boozman