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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



JAMES SANDERS JR.
SENATOR, 10TH DISTRICT

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April 24, 2014

Secretary Shaun Donovan
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan,

It has been reported that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is considering diverting \$1 billion or more of money designated for the rebuilding of the communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy into a nationwide competition for disaster resiliency projects. As a New York State Senator who represents the Rockaways, Springfield Gardens and other communities decimated by Hurricane Sandy, I am appalled that the federal government is considering putting my constituents into a contest for desperately needed recovery and rebuilding funds.

In addition to representing the Rockaways, I am also a resident who had my house and automobile severely damaged and destroyed, respectively, by the storm. Every day I witness my neighbors and constituents struggling to recover from the storm. Our communities are still in desperate need of rebuilding and recovery funds. It is a shame that our communities have been hit with the one-two punch of first being hit by a natural disaster and then receiving a second hit from the federal government as it turns the recovery of the area into a game of Wheel of Fortune. How dare the federal government pit communities across our nation that have been victims of natural disasters against each other.

I urge you to reconsider your proposal to turn federal disaster funding into a game show and to properly fund the recovery and rebuilding of the Rockaways and the other communities that have suffered from the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

Sincerely,

Senator James Sanders Jr.
10th Senatorial District

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cc: Hon. Bill De Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Chuck Schumer
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand
Hon. Gregory Meeks