

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



PATRICK M. GALLIVAN

October 8, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Your support is requested to provide full and complete disaster relief to the residents of the Town of West Seneca, where over 70 homes and businesses suffered tremendous damage due to flooding that resulted from a dramatic mid-winter thaw in 2013. While the municipality itself was helped by your announcement on September 4th, 2014; the residents continue to bear the full responsibility of rebuilding on their own.

In a January 30, 2014 letter, copy attached, I suggested a potential source of these funds. Again, I direct you to the State Operations Budget (S.6350-E), Chapter 50 of the Laws of 2014, specifically page 748. There is now a \$250 million appropriation, up from \$200 million, to assist localities that have suffered from a natural or man-made disaster. Following that written correspondence, in March of 2014, I met with then Director of State Operations Howard Glaser to reiterate my request for direct assistance. Director Glaser indicated that your office was supportive and asked my staff to follow up with his. Pursuant to that conversation, Special Assistant Michael Cassidy emailed my staff in April outlining a potential aid program for the residents of West Seneca, copy attached.

As we have seen with recent extreme weather events across the state, such as Hurricane Irene, Superstorm Sandy, and the more recent flooding in Central New York, the efforts of Federal Flood Insurance, FEMA, and state disaster officials is simply not enough to bring these devastated communities back to a level from which they can begin to recover. Real life gaps remain even after government and private insurance and federal grants are considered. This wake of destruction and disaster needs further remedy.

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As has been done for other localities recently, I strongly request you to direct funds to assist the families and businesses of West Seneca. The recent reimbursement provided to the town has simply not been enough. This community needs our help.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at any time. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "PAT", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Patrick M. Gallivan
Senator - 59th District

PMG:kb

Enclosures (2)

CC: Sheila Meegan, Supervisor of West Seneca
Sam Hoyt, Senior Vice President at ESD
Robert Mujica, Secretary of the Senate Finance Committee

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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247



PATRICK M. GALLIVAN

January 30, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As you know, the Town of West Seneca in Erie County has suffered a serious challenge as a result of storm flooding. Over 70 homes and businesses have suffered enormous losses during a very difficult time of the year.

Recognizing the challenges faced by this community, on January 6, 2014, you issued Executive Order 122 declaring a state of emergency for Erie County. Pursuant to this declaration, state disaster officials and employees from the New York Department of Financial Services have offered help to affected homeowners. However, much more still needs to be done.

As we have seen with recent disaster events across the state, such as Hurricane Irene, Superstorm Sandy, and the most recent flooding in Central New York, the efforts of Federal Flood Insurance, FEMA, and state disaster officials is simply not enough to bring these disaster-ravaged communities to a level from which they can begin to recover. Real life gaps exist that cannot be plugged by federal or private insurance, or federal grants, leaving a wake of destruction and disaster that has yet to be remediated.

On page 731 of this year's (2013-2014) State Operations Budget (S.2600-c), there is a \$200 million appropriation to assist localities that have suffered from a natural or man-made disaster. As has been done with other localities this past year, I strongly urge you to direct an expenditure of funds from this appropriation to assist the families and businesses of West Seneca, as well as the municipality itself. They are all in desperate need of help, and the present, albeit significant, assistance provided from the state has simply not been enough. From municipal infrastructure to housing, businesses, and the economy, this community has yet to really start the process of recovery. They need our help.

While immediate assistance is necessary, the Senate took action to advance a long-term solution to these types of disaster recovery efforts by passing a package of bills, including S.5987, which would establish a supplemental state disaster aid program. Until this package can become chaptered, however, the state needs to use its current authority in the present State Operations Budget to deliver assistance to the people of West Seneca. As you have done in the previous disasters, we ask you now to provide the same assistance to West Seneca.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick M. Gallivan", followed by a horizontal line.

Patrick M. Gallivan
Senator, 59th District

PMG:zp



Keith Bryan <kstephenbryan@gmail.com>

Re: West Seneca flooding

Michael Cassidy <Michael.Cassidy@exec.ny.gov>
To: Keith Bryan <keith@senatorgallivan.com>

Mon, Apr 7, 2014 at 11:59 AM

Hey Keith sorry for the delay.

The plan would look something like this (this is a rough draft though keep in mind)

- Assistance to homeowners and renters.
- We would provide up to a max of \$10,000 per household for eligible costs.
- According to the SBA data there are only 64 homes impacted, and eligible for SBA. So we're talking a ballpark amount of \$640,000, assuming all are eligible for the max (Maybe more if there were homeowners the SBA didn't catch)
- Actual assistance amount would be conditioned on how much an applicant may have received from insurance or other sources prior to applying to the state
- We would provide a short form application, like we did in the Mohawk Valley program, and require receipts and other docs to verify eligible costs.
- We could go and spend an evening or two in the community to collect all the applications and then work on turning checks around right away.

From: kstephenbryan@gmail.com [mailto:kstephenbryan@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Keith Bryan
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 11:52 AM
To: Michael Cassidy
Subject: Re: West Seneca flooding

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