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THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**ROY J. McDONALD**  
**Senator, 43rd District**

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August 31, 2011

Mr. Craig Fugate, Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear FEMA Director Fugate,

Hurricane Irene wreaked havoc up and down the eastern seaboard last weekend. In its path left destruction and devastation.

I know firsthand the impact this storm has left on our families and friends. After touring and witnessing firsthand the damaged and affected areas, I am asking that FEMA reconsider its original declaration and add Rensselaer and Saratoga to the list of eight counties in New York that will provide homeowners with emergency disaster relief.

Constituents of Poestenkill, Grafton, Nassau, Troy, Lansingburgh and Waterford have been forced from their homes. Roads in those communities have been swept away and now, many have no place to turn. They need our help and they need it now.

I commend FEMA and the federal government for taking immediate action to address these serious concerns effecting not just New Yorkers, but for all those impacted by this disaster. Furthermore, I applaud the efforts of Governor Cuomo as well as our local, county and state officials for working around the clock to lessen the impact left behind by Irene.

I will continue to work for and with the resilient people of the Capital Region in the coming weeks and months to ensure a full recovery, but we need your help. Please reconsider your declaration to include Rensselaer and Saratoga counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy J. McDonald". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "R" and "M".

Roy J. McDonald