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**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



JAMES L. SEWARD

SENATOR, 51ST DISTRICT

August 29, 2011

**ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER ON
CONFERENCE OPERATIONS**

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HEALTH
MENTAL HEALTH

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Re: *Hurricane Irene – Local Costs*

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Your administration's preparation for, and response to, Hurricane Irene have been noteworthy and commendable. As damage estimates are gathered, you will find losses and damage to public infrastructure in the tens of millions of dollars.

I write to request that New York State pick up the local share of flood expenses. Historically, the federal government's 75 percent share has been completed by a 12.5 percent match by each of the state and local governments. In 2006, the legislature and Governor Pataki enacted legislation authorizing the state to fund the local share.

The cost of county, town and village road, bridge and other municipal infrastructure repairs will exceed the localities' capacity to fund their share.

Therefore, I urge you the state to pick up the local share and stand ready to support the necessary legislation.

Thank you for your assistance.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Seward".

JAMES L. SEWARD
State Senator

