



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

July 21, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas
NYS Division of Homes and Community Renewal
Hampton Plaza
38-40 State Street
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Governor Hochul and Commissioner Visnauskas,

As you are aware, parts of Ontario County, NY recently experienced severe flash flooding as a result of heavy rainfall on Sunday, July 9. According to the National Weather Service, 5.8 inches of rain was measured at the Canandaigua Airport during the storm, with about 3.8 inches falling in 45 minutes. That amount of rain in a 24-hour period is considered a 100-year storm; this amount occurred in a 3-hour period – impacting homeowners and businesses and challenging local infrastructure.

Thank you, Governor, for your quick response in declaring a state of emergency in Ontario County and deploying state resources to assist our local and county officials and workers on the ground. We also appreciate you taking the time to come to Canandaigua to show residents your support. The teamwork and collaboration from New York State leaders and agencies has been incredible.

We ask that that teamwork continue and urge your offices to approve an emergency repair funding program to assist eligible impacted homeowners in Ontario County. County and municipal officials estimate that close to 200 homes in Canandaigua were damaged by flooding. Many of these property owners are now in need of assistance for critical and urgent repairs to ensure their homes are safe and habitable.

We are aware that emergency funds were recently made available to Orange County and would like to see a parallel program implemented for Ontario County. The County has been working closely with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and can provide whatever specific information you may need.

As state representatives for Ontario County, and as members of our respective committees on housing, we respectfully request your assistance and are prepared to support your offices in whatever way we can.

Sincerely,



Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Housing,
Construction & Community Development



Jeff Gallahan
Assemblyman, 131st District
Member, Assembly Committee on
Housing