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THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**ROBERT G. ORTT**  
SENATOR, 62<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

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May 22, 2017

Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor, New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As I explained in my April 21 letter, the rising water level of Lake Ontario has caused flooding and property damage to countless residents along the Lake's southern shore. Over the past month, New York State has taken action to mitigate the effects of the flooding.

Sandbags have been provided to shoreline residents to slow further Lake encroachment. The Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been working diligently to redesign shoreline infrastructure. The State Legislature has made available funding for damage to municipal infrastructure damaged by the flooding, and I have cosponsored legislation that would make state funds available to individuals who suffered property loss.

However, one resource has not yet been utilized: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding to assist the individuals and businesses that have lost property.

Through my conversations with shoreline residents, I've learned that many families have spent thousands of dollars on new flood prevention and shoreline resiliency structures. Unlocking FEMA funding would lessen the undue financial burden these families are being forced to carry through no fault of their own.

I urge you to request FEMA assistance for damage assessments so that the residents of the Lake Ontario shoreline can get the help they so desperately need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Ortt".

Robert G. Ortt  
Senator, 62<sup>nd</sup> District

RGO/jmv