



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

July 22, 2021

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

Re: *Natural Disaster Request- City of Lockport, City of Niagara Falls and Niagara County*

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The significant rainstorm that struck many of New Yorkers on July 20 has caused a significant amount of damage throughout Niagara County – most dramatically within the cities of Lockport and Niagara Falls. The heavy rainfall added to grounds and waterways already saturated from earlier storms.

In order to better aide all first responders and protect residents, local governments declared a state of emergency and imposed travel bans for all non-essential travel. With substantial flooding throughout the county, we have seen infrastructure, residences, and businesses suffer tremendous damage. Damages are still being uncovered and repairs calculated, but we are already aware that there will be significant financial costs to recover and rebuild. Such an undertaking will likely require local, state, and federal resources.

We kindly request that the state work swiftly through the New York State Office of Emergency Management (SEMO) to coordinate with the City of Lockport, City of Niagara Falls, and Niagara County to provide immediate emergency assistance and facilitate with available partners. Your attention and recognition of the localities' declarations of state of emergencies would prove crucial in aiding in recovery.

Respectfully,

Senator Robert G. Ort, 62nd District
Senate Minority Leader

Assemblyman Michael Norris, 144th District

Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, 145th District

Cc: City of Lockport Mayor Michelle Roman
City of Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino
Niagara County Manager Richard Updegrove
Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh