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Senate of Pennsylvania

October 31, 2012

VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY
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COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY,
VICE CHAIR
AGING & YOUTH
APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES &
ENERGY
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recovers from Hurricane Sandy's devastating impact, it is urgent that Category B emergency protective measures and debris removal be included as part of the pre-landfall disaster declaration issued for the state on October 29, 2012. While the request for direct federal assistance was granted, our request for reimbursement for all emergency protective measures was, most regrettably, denied. I respectfully request a reconsideration of this denial.

When Pennsylvania made its initial request for assistance, we were predicted to be in the bulls-eye of the storm. As a result, Governor Tom Corbett and the state's emergency management officials took all reasonable measures to prepare for a storm of historic magnitude. In a concerted effort to protect lives and property, Pennsylvania procured and pre-staged supplies, equipment, and response teams, which are all eligible expenses under the Stafford Act.

These protective measures were well worth taking. Hurricane Sandy left more than a million Pennsylvanians without power, toppled trees, closed roads, destroyed homes, and claimed seven lives. Pennsylvania is also providing assistance to New Jersey and New York, our neighboring states, who sustained even more destructive hits from this powerful storm.

Due to the dramatic impact of Hurricane Sandy, the significant damage sustained within the Commonwealth, and the urgent need to take extraordinary measures to prepare, I respectfully ask that you reconsider your initial denial and grant our request for funds.

Thank you for continuing to support Pennsylvania and our sister states as we move forward with the difficult process of recovery, and for reconsidering this urgent need for assistance in the wake of this unprecedented weather emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Baker".

Lisa Baker
Senator