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January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner,

When you walked off the House floor on Tuesday night, did you consider what \$27 billion worth of aid would mean to residents and businesses across Long Island and the Northeast region affected by one of the biggest storms in American history? While the water was rising, people were wading in waist-high waters, struggling to salvage anything from a bed to a family photo. Those in evacuation centers, waiting out the storm, sat hoping that the homes they left behind would still be standing when it was all over. Two months later, there are still people without homes, without food, and without hope that this nightmare will end.

The impacted families, seniors, and small businesses of Freeport, Long Beach, Lindenhurst, Mastic Beach, and other coastal neighborhoods would not consider the \$27 billion relief package that would help them restore what they lost to be waste or “pork.” To quote Representative Peter King, “[the Congressional Republicans] are supposed to be the party of family values. And you have families that are starving, families that are suffering, families that are spread all over living in substandard housing.” You are the leader of the House and, to date, you’ve failed us, the communities and families of Long Island. On Thursday, this bill will die along with the chance to restore any sort of normalcy for thousands of Long Islanders.

\$11.5 billion for the FEMA’s chief disaster relief fund and \$17 billion for community development block grants, much of which would help homeowners repair or replace their homes. Another \$11.7 billion would help repair New York City’s subways and other mass transit damage and protect them from future storms. Some \$9.7 billion would go toward the government’s flood insurance program. The Army Corps of Engineers would receive \$5.3 billion to mitigate flood future risks and rebuild damaged projects while also shifting \$400 million into a community development program for regions suffering disasters, which includes areas not struck by Sandy.

Most of the money in the \$60.4 billion bill — \$47.4 billion — is for immediate help for victims and other recovery and rebuilding efforts. The aid is intended to help states rebuild public infrastructure like roads and tunnels, and help thousands of people displaced from their homes. \$13 billion for projects to protect against future storms, including fortifying mass transit systems in the Northeast.

We now hear there will be a vote in the House on January 15th and we urge you to move swiftly to provide passage of this important aid without further delay or obstinence. If you need further insight as to the impact of our local communities any number of us the undersigned could share information, insight, and our raw experience. You can contact Vision LI at 631-261-0242 to reach any of the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Debbie Becker, Freeport Sandy, Help, Rescue, Recover  
Rich Cantwell, Friends of Freeport  
Diana Nappi, Friends of Freeport  
Justine Marrone, Friends of Freeport  
Lois Howes, Freeport Chamber of Commerce  
Cynthia Wittenberg Carucci, Friends of Freeport

John McNally, Rauch Foundation, Long Beach

Ken Feifer, Massapequa  
Susan Feifer, Massapequa

Hon. Edward Hennessey, NYS Assembly  
Hon. Kate Browning, Suffolk County Legislature  
Jon Siebert, Tri-Hamlet Leadership Council  
Beth Wahl, William Floyd Community Summit  
Lenny Levy, Mastic, Moriches, Shirley Library

Amy Castiglia, Lindy Manpower, Lindenhurst  
Corinna Reyes, Camp Bulldog, Lindenhurst  
Andrea Curran, Camp Bulldog, Lindenhurst  
Caitlin Curran, Camp Bulldog, Lindenhurst  
Diane Zeiss, Camp Bulldog, Lindenhurst  
Gerard McGibbon, Camp Bulldog, Lindenhurst  
Shannon Ford, Camp Bulldog, Lindenhurst  
Michael Pastore, Camp Bulldog, Lindenhurst  
Debra Pastore, Camp Bulldog, Lindenhurst  
Michele Michael, Young Professionals Group  
Marian Conway, Lindenhurst Historical Society

Hon. Paul Pontieri, Mayor, Village of Patchogue

Eric Alexander, Vision Long Island  
Tawaun Weber, Vision Long Island