

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write in support of New Hampshire Governor Christopher Sununu's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of New Hampshire following the damage and expense caused by severe storms and flooding between the dates of July 9 through July 17, 2023. The Governor's request includes a designation of the full Public Assistance Program for Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham and Sullivan Counties and a statewide designation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Severe storms and flooding during this period undermined roads and culverts throughout New Hampshire and destroyed state and local roads in a manner that left some people trapped in their homes. The continued rain overwhelmed already saturated ground and caused significant property damage, including widespread damage to state and local infrastructure that overwhelmed state, municipal and county budgets and resources. In response, Governor Sununu activated the State Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Operations Center and the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management initiated the appropriate Emergency Support Function lead agencies to ensure an adequate and timely response to the needs of the state. Additionally, the New Hampshire Departments of Transportation and Safety increased staffing levels to aid in response efforts and ensure the safety of citizens.

The magnitude of the damage caused by this storm is such that an effective response is beyond the capacity of New Hampshire's state and local governments, justifying federal assistance.

We urge you to grant a Major Disaster Declaration for New Hampshire as soon as possible in order to ensure that our state and towns have access to the resources and assistance they need to recover fully from this emergency. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress