



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Brian M. Kolb
Minority Leader

September 6, 2011

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
NYS State Capitol
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Irene, and the tremendous human suffering and financial devastation left in its wake, I am requesting your administration set aside \$50 million out of \$200 million in state regional economic development assistance to help the communities directly affected by the storm rebuild, recover and return.

Ideally, the \$50 million – currently targeted for the Regional Council Initiative – would be fast-tracked to aid affected localities, businesses and farms hardest hit by the storm. Utilizing \$50 million from the \$200 million already set aside for economic development aid would have minimal impact on the administration's Regional Council Initiative, especially since so many areas of our state were adversely impacted by Hurricane Irene and will undoubtedly qualify for economic recovery funds. Frankly, given the storm's size, severity and scope, such a reordering of priorities is necessary.

A targeted, timely injection of \$50 million from an already established state funding stream of \$200 million will support regional economies on a short and long-term basis. In addition, it will lift a heavy financial burden off the backs of local governments, businesses and farms that bore the brunt from one of the worst storms in New York's history.

Governor, you have seen firsthand the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, the damage it wrought across our state and the pain it inflicted on countless New Yorkers. We cannot afford to wait – getting \$50 million in economic recovery funding flowing from the state's administrative pipeline into the hands of eligible localities, businesses and farms would accelerate relief efforts, create private sector jobs and begin New York's journey toward recovery.

I welcome your support, along with that of the Lieutenant Governor and my fellow Legislative Leaders for this proposal intended to get New York's storm affected communities back on their feet as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian".

Brian M. Kolb
Assembly Minority Leader

CC: Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy; Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver; Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos; Senate Majority Leader John Sampson