

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2404

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND  
PROJECTION FORCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS  
HOUSE SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE  
AND AERONAUTICS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND  
SCIENCE EDUCATION

January 14, 2013

Dear Colleague:

I write to urge you to vote yes this week on the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (H.R. 152).

As you may know, last week I joined you in voting against additional funding for the National Flood Insurance Program because I feel strongly that we must have a national discussion on how our country responds to and pays for disaster relief in the future. My vote was not meant to deny any aid to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. I have always and will continue to support such aid.

Last Tuesday, I had the opportunity to travel to the hardest hit areas of New York and New Jersey to see first-hand the damage caused by this storm. It immediately reminded me of the devastation we in Mississippi experienced after Hurricane Katrina just seven years ago. The Northeast needs our help now in ensuring the victims of Sandy receive the relief they so desperately require.

As a conservative elected to bring fiscal responsibility to Washington, I understand the difficulties in voting for increased spending. There is no doubt that the way we respond to disasters in this country is inadequate at best, and we have no choice but to fix it. The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 scheduled for consideration today is the first step in a much longer process of reforming our disaster relief system. Improving resiliency, increasing mitigation efforts, and changing the way we pay for disaster relief will be key to this discussion.

I plan to support this week's bill to provide assistance to those who need aid in Sandy-stricken areas, and I hope you will do the same. I believe we as Americans will work to do what is responsible by reforming our broken disaster relief system, but we will also always do what is necessary to provide help to those in need.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress