

May , 2020

The Honorable Robert Menendez
One Gateway Center
Suite 1100
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Senator Menendez,

I am writing today to ask for your support for legislation establishing forgiveness from claw backs for loans made by FEMA and the federal government after Superstorm Sandy.

As you know, the barrier island was devastated by Superstorm Sandy, with Ortley Beach ground zero for impact. Homeowners like us were forced to spend thousands of dollars, with or without NFIP and FEMA help, to rebuild. Many of us found the FEMA procedures burdensome; almost all of us were undercompensated; and some of us are still suffering from the storm's aftereffects. To now also have FEMA claw backs hanging over our heads is devastating.

In addition, Toms River Township desperately needs forgiveness for a \$5 million CDBG loan given to it after Sandy. This year Toms River is raising my property taxes, in part to cover the \$1.25 million needed to make the first re-payment towards that \$5 million grant. Meanwhile, we were told that other nearby localities -- Brick township, Lavallette, Mantoloking, Berkeley, and Point Pleasant borough -- have gotten at least partial relief from their loan repayments. We ask for the same forgiveness for Toms River.

Forgiving this debt is critical to me and my family, both to spare us from further Sandy-related expenses and to give Toms River adequate resources to address the COVID-19 crisis. We urge you to continue your efforts to resolve this in a way that is fair and equitable to the residents of Ortley Beach and Toms River.

Sincerely,