Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 31, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to request that you include Category B emergency protective measures and debris removal as part of the pre-landfall disaster declaration issued on October 29, 2012 for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As you know, the Commonwealth's original request for an emergency declaration included a request for reimbursement for all emergency protective measures. The declaration of emergency, however, provided only for direct federal assistance.

Hurricane Sandy has had a devastating impact on the mid-Atlantic region. When Pennsylvania made its request for assistance, Pennsylvania was predicted to be "ground zero" for the convergence of Hurricane Sandy with other weather systems. This convergence was expected to, and did, create a storm of historic magnitude.

Pennsylvania responded to the evident urgency of the situation by taking all available measures to prepare for impact and protect the lives and property of the citizens of the Commonwealth. In accordance with responsible and smart disaster management, Pennsylvania procured and pre-staged supplies, equipment, and response teams where it appeared they would be most needed. These measures taken in preparation for the storm, which are eligible expenses under the Stafford Act, may not be reimbursed by the Federal Government because Pennsylvania might not qualify for a major disaster declaration.

Hurricane Sandy has had serious consequences across the Commonwealth. As of Tuesday, October 30, approximately 1.2 million people are left without power, as well as enormous debris and other significant damage from this powerful storm. Furthermore, Pennsylvania is providing assistance to its sister states that have felt Hurricane Sandy's effects even more seriously as the storm moved through the region. Due to the extensive force of the storm, the significant damages within the Commonwealth, and the necessity of taking extraordinary measures to prepare for this unprecedented and dangerous weather event, we respectfully ask that you give every consideration to this request.

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We are confident that the Federal Government will continue to support Pennsylvania and the impacted states as we move forward with the difficult process of recovery, and we thank you for your leadership during this devastating disaster.

Sincerely,

Cl W Dent

Bill Shuster

Mike Doyle

Patrick Meehan

Joseph R. Pitts

Jason Altmire

Chris Fattah

Dan Lee

Mike Gerlach

Allyson Y Schwartz

W A Brady

Tom Marino

Lou Barletta

Mike Kelly

Tim Murphy

Glenn GT Thompson

Todd R. Platts

Tim Holden

M S T

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3. Bill Shuster (PA-09)
4. Tom Marino (PA-10)
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11. Jason Altmire (PA-04)
12. Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA-05)
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18. Mark S. Critz (PA-12)
19. Allyson Y. Schwartz (PA-13)