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November 27, 2012

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

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Governor Cuomo and Mayor Bloomberg,

I am writing to you regarding the need to restore the Brooklyn seawall which was significantly damaged by Hurricane Sandy and is in need of immediate repairs. It is my understanding that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may take on this project with FEMA funding at the request of the City and State. Therefore, I respectfully ask for your assistance in requesting a FEMA mission assignment to swiftly begin repairs.

The areas near 14th Avenue, 17th Avenue, and 95th Street are noticeably compromised and left with little protection. When the seawall is compromised, it can no longer provide a buffer to prevent the flooding of the Belt Parkway, which is a crucial thoroughfare for residents and emergency vehicles. The Belt Parkway also provides access to Fort Hamilton, which is not only an active military base but serves as a staging area for current relief efforts as well as in past crises like 9/11. Finally, the missing railing and broken wall are a safety hazard to those running and fishing in the area.

Given the crucial role the seawall plays in the safety of Brooklyn's residents and the security of New York City in times of crisis, I ask you to request a FEMA mission assignment without delay. Thank you again for your prompt attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Grimm  
Member of Congress

MG/cd