

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

Thank you very much for acting quickly to approve the requested major disaster declarations by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and Mississippi, greenlighting federal aid for individuals affected by devastating flooding from the remnants of Hurricane Ida. As you are aware following your visit to New York City, New Jersey, and Louisiana to survey the storm damage, many individuals in Ida's path lost all or nearly all of their possessions as a result of the flooding.

One important item many families impacted by the remnants of Ida have lost is their passports. The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law No:115-254) says the President may waive U.S. passport application fees for those who lost their U.S. passport in a major disaster. The law states that fees will only be waived for those who lost their passports as a direct result of the disasters listed online on the Department of State's website.

After more than a year of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Americans are preparing to travel. Families are trying to reunite with loved ones, students are trying to study abroad, and businesses are trying to reconnect with customers. Those impacted by Ida are already facing incredible burdens to replace the possessions they have lost, as well as make immediate, necessary repairs to their homes.

We urge you to name Hurricane Ida, and the remnants of Ida, as a major disaster that qualifies for a passport fee waiver, as soon as possible.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,



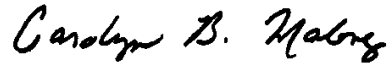
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D
Member of Congress

/s/

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

/s/

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Hakeem Jeffries
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Kathleen M. Rice
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