



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

August 5, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Captain Russ Webster, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 1
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 C.F.R. §206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for all counties (Hartford, Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham) and the two tribal nations, Mashantucket and Mohegan, in the State of Connecticut as a result of the severe and continuing effects of Tropical Storm Isaias. Accompanying this letter is the appropriate form requesting the declaration via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Tropical Storm Isaias came through the State fast and furious during the day on August 4, leaving over 700,000 of our utility customers without power. It is anticipated that, due to the statewide and devastating scope of the damage, full restoration may take a week or more. State and municipal governments, businesses, and community members are beginning to assess damages. As we collect and evaluate these damages, I anticipate that we will request a FEMA joint preliminary damage assessment, which ultimately may result in a request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. **In the meantime, I am requesting direct federal assistance to aid in the emergency procurement of resources necessary to maintain and restore public safety during this crisis. I also request activation of Categories A and B Debris Removal and Emergency Protective Measures under the FEMA Public Assistance Program.**

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The State Emergency Operations Center has been fully activated since March in response to the COVID pandemic, and I directed an additional full activation in advance of Tropical Storm Isaias reaching Connecticut. I ordered that the State Response Framework be implemented and declared a civil preparedness emergency this morning as the statewide scope of damage became clear. Numerous Emergency Support Functions are operating; the State Interagency Debris Management Task Force and State Fuel and Generator Task Force are activated.

At least one death and five serious injuries have been reported to date in Connecticut as a result of the storm. Rescue operations have included the extrication of individuals trapped in cars or pinned under fallen trees. Hundreds of roads are blocked and thousands of trees and utility poles are down. Thirty-three nursing homes are on generator power. Cell towers are losing capabilities. Four correctional facilities are on generator power. Thirty-one public water systems providing service to tens of thousands of residents are on generators. Ninety-five local Emergency Operations Centers have been activated and 11 municipalities have declared an emergency. Eleven National Guard facilities are without power. About half of the Department of Transportation's over 300 cameras across the State are inoperable. MetroNorth Rail has substantial damages with debris on the rails, and damaged switches.

Again, I request immediate direct Federal assistance for the State, including all counties and tribal nations in Connecticut, as well as activation of Category A, debris removal, and Category B, emergency protective measures, in order to assist our response and minimize life safety issues associated with Tropical Storm Isaias.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ned Lamont
Governor of the State of Connecticut