



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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September 27, 2013

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the New York State Association for Affordable Housing (NYSFAH) and the other below interested New York business and community constituents, we are writing to thank you for your leadership and work toward the difficult and ongoing task of recovering from Hurricane Sandy.

The substantial resources passed in the Emergency Supplemental bill earlier this year have been critical to rebuilding infrastructure, homes and businesses in the Sandy impacted communities. As you know better than anyone, however, there are still thousands of households and businesses in real need and struggling to recover. Longer term rebuilding and recovery from disasters has historically been met by Congress also passing individual, small business, and housing tax relief – as was done in recent years from Hurricane Katrina and the western states draught.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of Super Storm Sandy, the Congress has yet to act upon tax relief for those individuals and businesses devastated by the storm. We know from working with your staff that this is something you have been focused on this past year. We also know and appreciate the various challenges and timing issues to introducing such legislation. We agree that bi-partisan support for your bill is imperative to building consensus to get the bill passed, and we understand that in order to ensure bi-partisan support members are first looking to see a score from Joint Tax on the bill which is still pending.

That said, as representatives of New York’s business, banking and housing communities, we urge you to introduce the bill as quickly as possible. There is strong support for this bill from various industries within and beyond New York, who are prepared to advance it with their delegation members. These include national trade associations and the 14 states impacted by Hurricanes Irene and Lee. We are also working to grow co-sponsorship of both the House Sandy (Pascrell/Reed) and Irene and Lee (Gibson) tax relief bills.

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We would appreciate you urging Joint Tax to determine a score, but if that can't be obtained in the very near future we hope that you will introduce the bill quickly without it. We feel strongly that introducing the bill now will enable us to generate support and momentum for its passage.

Thank you again for your continued leadership on behalf of New York and the nation. We look forward to working with you to advance this tax relief legislation through the Senate and the Congress.

Sincerely,