

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**SENATOR**  
**PAMELA A. HELMING**  
**54TH DISTRICT**

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MINORITY CONFERENCE**

**RANKING MINORITY MEMBER**

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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AND SMALL BUSINESS

RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

RULES

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LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

July 13, 2023

Honorable Charles Schumer  
100 State Street, Room 3040  
Rochester, NY 14614

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
100 State Street, Room 4195  
Rochester, NY 14614

Honorable Claudia Tenney  
7171 Pittsford-Victor Road, Suite 210  
Victor, NY 14564

Honorable Joseph Morelle  
100 State Street, Room 3120  
Rochester, NY 14614

Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Congresswoman Tenney, Congressman Morelle:

As you are aware, parts of Ontario County, NY recently experienced severe flash flooding as a result of heavy rainfall on Sunday, July 9. According to the National Weather Service, 5.8 inches of rain was measured at the Canandaigua Airport during the storm, with about 3.8 inches falling in 45 minutes. That amount of rain in a 24-hour period is considered a 100-year storm; this amount occurred in a 3-hour period – impacting homeowners, residents and natural resources, and challenging local infrastructure.

Thanks in large part to your leadership in Washington, the STORM Act was enacted to provide \$500 million in hazard mitigation funding to states to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters. I was proud to help lead the effort in our Legislature to get enacting legislation included in the State Budget to establish New York's Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund to provide financial assistance for projects that reduce disaster risks for communities, homeowners and businesses.

The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) applied for \$15 million of the first-available \$50 million to establish its Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund. The identified priorities for this fund include mitigation projects that address localized flood risk reduction and infrastructure retrofit.

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As a result of recent storms and forecasted rainfalls, local governments are eager to take additional hazard mitigation steps to safeguard their residents and communities. As the State Senator representing many of these communities, I respectfully request your assistance in expediting this FEMA funding to New York State so the Revolving Loan Fund may be implemented quickly.

I know you share my commitment to getting our local governments and constituents the resources and support they need, and I thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Pamela A. Helming  
Senator, 54th District

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