



For Immediate Release

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Hampton Roads Lawmakers Support Governor's Request for Federal Disaster Assistance

Letter to the President Urges Swift Action to Aid Constituents

Washington, D.C. – Today, Reps. J. Randy Forbes, Glenn Nye, Bobby Scott, and Rob Wittman, who represent the Hampton Roads region, sent a letter to President Barack Obama in support of Gov. Tim Kaine's request for federal assistance for localities in Virginia that received damage from the Nor'easter that occurred from November 11-15, 2009.

Gov. Kaine sent a letter this past Friday requesting relief for residents to both the Small Business Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Virginia did not qualify for individual aid partly because eighty percent of the damage was covered by insurance.

In the letter to President Obama the Congressmen state that "We have seen the storm damage first-hand, and it has been devastating for many communities in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia...In fact, some communities have experienced flooding that is worse than the flooding during Hurricane Isabel in 2003."

Specifically the lawmakers support the Governor's requests that:

- 1) The Small Business Administration makes emergency low-interest loans available to homeowners and renters in the affected areas because the uninsured damage caused by the storm was not severe or widespread enough for Virginia to qualify for The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Individual Assistance program.
- 2) That FEMA Public Assistance covers eligible costs for damage to public infrastructure, debris removal and related emergency services.
- 3) The release of Hazard Mitigation Assistance for all Virginia localities, which would help local and state governments take actions to reduce the impact of future disasters.

[Read the full letter here:](#)

WITTMAN WEEKLY WASHINGTON UPDATE

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Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee, where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

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