



Senate of Pennsylvania

SEP 20 2011

DATE: September 19, 2011
TO: All Senators
FROM: Senators John R. Gordner, Lisa Baker, John P. Blake, Gene Yaw, and John T. Yudichak
SUBJECT: **Proposed Legislation Package to Provide State Assistance to the Victims of Flooding as a Result of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee**

In the near future, we will be introducing a package of bills to provide state assistance to the residents, municipalities, and counties that were severely impacted by the devastating flooding that occurred as a result of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. As the state responded to similar flood related disasters in 1972, 1977 and 1996, we intend to introduce the following legislative proposals to provide state assistance to the victims of flooding:

1. Weather Disaster Relief Act for 2011

Establishes a restricted account in the State Treasury. The Supplemental Individual Assistance Program would provide additional grant monies to individuals or families eligible under the federal Stafford Act based on income eligibility and damage losses.

2. Flood Emergency of 2011 Bond Authorization

Authorizes \$250 million under Article VIII Section 7(a)(1) of the Pennsylvania Constitution for state share of flood related highway and bridge rehabilitation projects.

3. Local Abatement of Real Estate Taxes

Allows local taxing bodies to abate real estate taxes for properties substantially affected by the flood. Abatement is directly proportionate to damage of property.

4. Capital Budget Act of 2011 for Flood Damaged Highways

Authorizes a county by county list of highways affected by the flood that need rehabilitation and need to be added to the Capital Budget Act.

5. Capital Budget Act of 2011 for Flood Damaged Bridges

Authorizes a county by county list of bridges affected by the flood that need rehabilitation and need to be added to the Capital Budget Act.

6. Flood Control and Hazard Mitigation Itemization Act

Authorizes a county by county list of flood control and hazard mitigation projects that could be funded through the Capital Budget Act.

7. Public and Non-Public School Waiver Act

Authority to the Secretary of the Department of Education to waive certain requirements of the Public School Code and other related acts for substantially affected public and non-public schools.

Please call my office at 787-8928 if you are interested in cosponsoring the legislation.