

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 27, 2023

Deanne Criswell  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Criswell:

Thank you for your partnership in assisting New York State during, and in the aftermath of, Winter Storm Elliott. The blizzard was unprecedented in terms of duration, conditions, and lives lost. As such, New York State intends to request a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for this event, based on current damage estimates. To ensure a thorough collection of damage information from the storm, the State has also requested a 30-day extension to the Preliminary Disaster Assessment (PDA). As Representatives of the communities in New York hardest hit by Winter Storm Elliott, we write in full support of these requests.

The regions we represent are very familiar with extreme weather events, but Winter Storm Elliott presented new levels of strain to our emergency management systems. Our community leaders, first responders, health care providers, and safety net operators customarily prepare for winter storms, yet the intensity and duration of Winter Storm Elliott was unprecedented in scope and presented acute stresses. Due to this extreme event and prolonged white out conditions, first responders were unable to deploy for 12-18 hours to deliver essential functions. This made it extremely difficult to respond to medical emergencies caused by the blizzard. We continue to mourn for those lives lost today.

From our continued conversation with local and state government, it is our understanding that the magnitude of applicable costs incurred for this storm is still being tabulated. As such, we believe the 30-day extension to the PDA, as requested by the Governor, is prudent and should be approved by your agency expeditiously.

We appreciate your work in assisting our communities as they recover from this extraordinary storm. We look forward to working with you to ensure all necessary federal resources are distributed appropriately.

Sincerely,

**BRIAN HIGGINS**  
Member of Congress

**NICK LANGWORTHY**  
Member of Congress