



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

September 6, 2011

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Norman Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dicks:

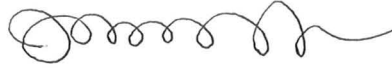
I am writing to inform you of the Administration's intent to transmit to Congress later this week a Budget Amendment for disaster relief needs through fiscal year 2012. While our assessments are not yet complete, we believe that, in addition to amounts already requested for disasters in our 2012 Budget Request, the Amendment will seek roughly \$4.8 billion to fund disaster relief needs in the Disaster Relief Fund through fiscal year 2012, including approximately \$1.5 billion for the federal share of costs to respond to Hurricane Irene.

After working closely with officials in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) over the weekend, we now estimate that the cost of responding to Hurricane Irene will be approximately \$1.5 billion through fiscal year 2012. In addition, approximately \$3.3 billion will be needed to deal with the outstanding costs of other disasters. Combining those two needs, the Budget Amendment forthcoming later this week will seek to amend our fiscal year 2012 request to add \$4.8 billion through FY2012. This \$4.8 billion would constitute disaster relief within the meaning of section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, appropriately triggering an adjustment in the ceiling for discretionary spending pursuant to section 251.

As you know, concerns have been raised regarding the possibility that the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) may be unable to meet resource needs in the remaining three weeks of fiscal year 2011. We are working closely with FEMA and DHS officials to determine spending needs over the next several weeks and to identify all possible options for providing additional resources to sustain the Fund until October 1, 2011, when new funding will be available to the DRF. We are committed to making funds available in the amount and at the time they are needed, including through supplemental appropriations if required.

Disaster relief to our fellow Americans is a commitment that crosses all boundaries of geography and political party. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to continue this long tradition of providing for our neighbors as they recover and rebuild their homes and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a trailing line, representing Jacob J. Lew.

Jacob J. Lew  
Director

Identical Letter Sent to The Honorable Harold Rogers, The Honorable Daniel Inouye, The Honorable Thad Cochran, The Honorable Paul Ryan, The Honorable Chris Van Hollen, The Honorable Kent Conrad, and The Honorable Jeff Sessions