

DR. JEFFERSON VAN DREW  
2ND DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2447 RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6572

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1001 TILTON ROAD, SUITE 101  
NORTHFIELD, NJ 08225  
(609) 625-5008



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD AND  
MARITIME TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT SAFETY

Governor Phil Murphy  
Governor-Elect Mikie Sherrill  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08265

December 11, 2025

Dear Governor Murphy and Governor-Elect Sherrill,


I respectfully request that the State of New Jersey declare a State of Emergency, issue a disaster declaration, and take all necessary steps to secure federal assistance for the severe coastal erosion and storm damage affecting the Jersey Shore. I have identified some funding through the Disaster Supplemental of 2025 Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies account that is available for this purpose, but these funds can only be tapped if the state advances disaster measures.

Since July, the Jersey Shore has suffered intense wind, wave, and water impacts from storm events including Hurricane Erin, Hurricane Imelda, offshore Hurricane Humberto, and a succession of destructive nor'easters. These cumulative events have caused significant dune loss, beach profile collapse, and damage to public infrastructure in multiple municipalities. On October 23rd, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection formally documented "major" impacts across wide stretches of the coastline, and several shore towns have already issued local states of emergency.

The breadth and severity of this damage now poses a direct threat to public safety, critical infrastructure, and federally authorized Coastal Storm Risk Management projects. Under Public Law 84-99, federal emergency assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cannot be mobilized until the State has declared an emergency or disaster and formally requests federal support. State action is therefore a necessary legal prerequisite to unlock federal emergency authorities that can stabilize beaches, repair erosion, and restore protective coastal features before further damage occurs.

I stand ready to strongly advocate at the federal level, including with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA, to ensure the swift approval and implementation of urgently needed federal assistance once the State initiates the request. Thank you for your consideration and help on behalf of our coastal communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Van Drew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Van Drew, D.M.D.  
Member of Congress