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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3201

August 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write today to bring to your attention the significant damage sustained by critical infrastructure on Long Island following the intense flooding and heavy rainfall on August 18th. This severe weather event resulted in widespread damage to roads across the region, including the collapse of a major road in Stony Brook, New York, causing significant disruptions to transportation and posing serious challenges to public safety.

Given the critical nature of the infrastructure impacted by this disaster, I respectfully request that you consider utilizing funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support the recovery and rebuilding efforts in this region. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was designed to address precisely these kinds of urgent infrastructure needs, ensuring that our transportation systems are resilient and capable of withstanding increasingly severe weather events.

The damage in Suffolk County, particularly the road collapse in Stony Brook, highlights the vulnerabilities in our infrastructure that require immediate attention and substantial investment. I am already working closely with federal partners, including FEMA, as well as state and local governments, to assist in the cleanup and initial recovery efforts. However, the scale of the destruction has overwhelmed local resources, making federal assistance through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law critical to fully restoring and enhancing the affected transportation networks.

I believe that the deployment of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding in Suffolk County, and specifically Stony Brook, will not only support the immediate recovery efforts but also contribute to the long-term resilience of our infrastructure, helping to protect our communities from future disasters. This is a crucial opportunity to demonstrate the law's impact and ensure that its benefits are felt by those who need them most.

I look forward to working with you and your team at the Department of Transportation to facilitate the necessary recovery efforts. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued commitment to strengthening America's infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress