January 15, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to vote in support of the House’s Superstorm Sandy Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill, which funds emergency relief, recovery, and mitigation assistance for damaged communities, individuals, infrastructure, and services. This financial assistance is vital needed and will help these communities and families recover and rebuild. AFSCME supports the $17 billion funded in Chairman Rogers’ substitute and the additional $33.6 billion in Rep. Frelinghuysen’s important amendment. These provisions should be enacted immediately and without offsets that reduce funding for needed relief and mitigation.

As in the case of all natural disasters, it is urgent for Congress to join together and work to assist America’s communities and families in need. In this case, the Superstorm Sandy appropriations bill would provide emergency assistance to numerous damaged communities, including the hardest hit in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and elsewhere along the east coast and inland. This assistance is needed now and should include funds for both recovery and mitigation, which will ensure rebuilding protects against future flooding and storms. Given that this was one of the most damaging storms in American history, Congress should appropriate the requested funds to address the enormous need confronting us.

We are very concerned about the millions of Americans affected by this harmful natural disaster. AFSCME urges you to support overall funding of $50.6 billion and oppose efforts to delay or weaken this legislation.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Loveless
Director of Federal Government Affairs

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