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Congressman Lee M. Zeldin
First Congressional District of New York

August 21, 2021

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Administrator Criswell and Governor Cuomo:

I write regarding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service National Hurricane Center forecast that Hurricane Henri is rapidly approaching Long Island and will make landfall this Sunday.

Hurricane Henri is currently classified as a Category 1 hurricane as it continues up the eastern coast towards Long Island. The potential impacts of this storm are immense when it makes landfall with rainfall amounts of 3-6 inches forecast over Long Island, New England, southeast New York, and northern New Jersey through Monday, potential storm surges of 3-5 feet, and high winds upwards of 75 miles per hour.

It is my understanding FEMA is currently setting up a staging area at Republic Airport in East Farmingdale, New York, and coordinating with federal agencies and New York State (NYS) pre-landfall to ensure needed commodities like generators, tarps, food and other supplies are available to be delivered should the storm follow the current NOAA forecast.

Republic Airport is located close to the Nassau County and Suffolk County border which is over 80 miles away from some of the locations expected to be the hardest hit on the East End of Suffolk County. I'm concerned having a staging area this far away from many of my constituents will result in delays to the delivery of needed commodities to those families, individuals, and local governments.

I urge FEMA and NYS to move expeditiously and coordinate to set up auxiliary staging areas at airports further east on Long Island including sites such as MacArthur Airport in Islip, Calabro Airport in Brookhaven, or Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach to have needed commodities ready to be delivered more efficiently to those in need.

I look forward to your response and coordinating with you and local governments in Suffolk County to ensure we are prepared to deliver needed supplies as swiftly and efficiently as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Zeldin', written in a cursive style.

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress