

For Immediate Release

October 24, 2006

Joint Statement by Senators Schumer, Clinton, and Representatives Higgins and Slaughter, on Approval of Major Disaster Declaration

Washington, DC - We are grateful that the President has finally answered our calls to issue a major disaster declaration for Western New York. We know that many communities have suffered greatly since a massive snowstorm caused thousands of business and homes to go without power for several days. Much of the power in the region has been restored to date. Our offices have been in contact with FEMA and New York State to ensure that assistance comes as quickly as possible. We must make sure that everyone who is still without power has their power restored as soon as possible. This major disaster declaration will make individual assistance available to people in the counties of Erie, Genesee, Orleans, and Niagara. Everyone should continue to keep records and register with FEMA in order to ensure they receive appropriate level of assistance. We commend everyone who was impacted by this snow storm especially the emergency responders and public officials who managed this crisis. We will continue to stand with everyone in this time of need."

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