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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 30, 2026

Acting Administrator Robert Fenton
Federal Emergency Management Administration
500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fenton,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider FEMA's decision to categorically deny period-of-performance extension requests made by Massachusetts communities with active projects to repair damage caused by Hurricane Sandy and subsequent severe winter storms. This decision could impact ongoing disaster recovery work on critical projects in Gloucester, Hull, Marshfield, Nahant, Quincy, Rockport, and Scituate and put at risk more than \$7 million that these communities have already obligated in reliance on federal funding.

This funding is essential to repair coastal infrastructure that sustained significant damage in Hurricane Sandy and severe winter storms in February 2013, January 2015, and March 2018. These seawalls and stone revetments are the first line of defense against waves, storm surge, and erosion. Repairing them is necessary to protect homes, roads, businesses, utilities, beaches, and public access, while also strengthening the long-term resilience of our coastal communities. The financial impact is significant, with Scituate and Rockport each standing to lose nearly \$3 million for critical repairs.

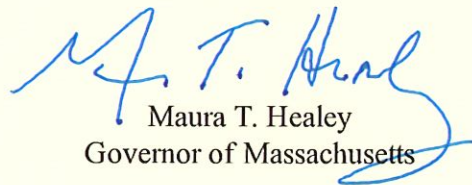
These communities have spent years diligently advancing these recovery projects in reliance on federal funding. They have navigated cumbersome federal approval and permitting processes, often experiencing lengthy delays beyond their control. These are complex projects that typically take several years to undergo environmental and historical preservation reviews, satisfy state and federal procurement and grant requirements, and carry out design, permitting and construction. While some projects are in advanced stages and near completion, others are now on track to be advertised for construction only to have their funding placed at risk by FEMA's recent decision.

Given the significant impact of this decision on our coastal communities, I strongly urge FEMA to reverse its intention to categorically deny extension requests. FEMA must take into account the facts and circumstances of each request, including delays caused by federal and state permitting over which the municipalities have no control. I further ask that FEMA clarify the standard it uses to evaluate extension requests and how it defines "substantially complete" or "reasonable progress" for projects, including those still in the permitting phase. I ask that you

pause any termination action for affected Massachusetts projects until these matters are addressed.

In Massachusetts, we are committed to supporting our communities as they work to recover from coastal storm damage and build more resilient infrastructure to protect against future disasters. I ask that FEMA honor its commitment to these communities and ensure that federal funds remain available so these critical disaster recovery projects can move forward. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Maura T. Healey
Governor of Massachusetts

CC: Jarrett Devine, Acting Regional Administrator, FEMA Region 1

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Senator Ed Markey

Representative Seth Moulton, Massachusetts Congressional District 6

Representative Stephen Lynch, Massachusetts Congressional District 8

Representative William Keating, Massachusetts Congressional District 9