

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

August 10, 2026

The Honorable Cameron Hamilton
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Hamilton:

I write to urge the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to swiftly approve the Town of Hamden's federal disaster reimbursements under Project Worksheets #796462, #811378, #811378, #811380, #811384, #811386, #811388 (DR-4825-NY). The Town of Hamden is awaiting final approval for over \$5,000,000 in funding to repair and improve the resilience of Chamber Hollows Road, East Brook Road, and Oxbow Hollow Road, as well as ditches and shoulder areas that experienced significant damage due to flooding in 2024 from the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby.

In August of 2024, the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby brought heavy rain and flooding to communities across New York's Southern Tier, including the Town of Hamden in Delaware County. The Town began working with FEMA and New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES) in 2024 to utilize federal funding to help pay for cleanup, repairs, and remediation from these flood event damages. It has worked diligently over the past two years to comply with multiple requests for information so that FEMA would approve and agree to reimburse the project costs of \$5,032,655. These critical improvements will address storm damage and enhance long-term resiliency. Work will replace existing metal pipes with properly sized concrete box culverts, along with new headwalls and wingwalls to provide additional structural support, improve drainage capacity, and meet New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requirements. The project will also stabilize a failing roadside embankment through the installation of soil nails. Additionally, the Town will restore damaged roadside ditches and shoulders impacted by flooding, improving drainage, protecting roadways, and reducing the risk of future storm damage. The annual Town of Hamden Highway Department budget is set at just over one million dollars, leaving the municipality without the finances to complete these critical repair and mitigation projects without FEMA assistance, putting their infrastructure, property, and community at risk.

It will be two years this August since the flooding rains and storm took place. The community has been extremely patient in waiting for necessary repair work and the Town remains vulnerable to further damage should another storm occur before repairs are completed. Given the importance of these projects, I ask that you promptly review the applications and swiftly approve the projects to free up the necessary funding that will enable the Town of Hamden to fully recover from the destruction of Tropical Storm Debby and better prepare for the next storm.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator