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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204

June 21, 2007

The Honorable R. David Paulison  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
United States Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Paulison:

As you are aware, Western New York was hit by a freak snowstorm in October of last year, devastating the historic tree canopy. Since that time, arborists and local officials have been working diligently to assess which damaged trees will survive and which need to be removed.

The town of Amherst, for example, was particularly hard hit — with nearly 10,000 trees damaged. While town officials and residents are aware that most of these trees will need to be removed due to safety and financial reasons, quality-of-life and property values are motivating the community to try to save as many trees as possible.

I understand that under federal regulations affected communities in Western New York have until mid-October 2007 — one year after the storm — to remove the trees if they want federal reimbursement. In Amherst, for example, the removal costs are projected at nearly \$3.3 million, a staggering price tag that this town and others like it would have difficulty assuming without federal assistance.

I visited Western New York this past Monday and during my conversations with local officials I was asked to address this issue. That is why I write to you today to ask that a one-year extension for federal reimbursement be granted to the affected communities. I understand that in one year, experts will be in a better position to make decisions about trees that look salvageable today.

I appreciate your consideration of this problem and look forward to your prompt reply. Please contact Danielle Kline of my staff at 202-224-4451.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton