Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

May 13, 2004

Dear President Bush,

On May 4, 2004, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) updated their accounting of expenditures from the Emergency Relief Fund. Despite a statutory requirement to update this report quarterly, this was the first report in a year. Like all previous reports, it does not separately identify the amount of aid provided to New York after 9/11 although OMB's own directive specifically requires such information. Copies of the reports can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/erfreports/ and the OMB Bulletin instructing agency heads on how these reports should be done can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b02-01attach.pdf.

The OMB Bulletin states that "The report will separately identify the cumulative amounts provided to [New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania]", but none of the reports issued to date has complied with this instruction. In light of OMB's continued refusal to provide an accounting of aid New York City received after the terrorist attacks we have three requests:

1. Again we ask you to direct OMB to provide a full accounting of recovery funds. A continued refusal can only be seen as proof New York will never receive the full $21.4 billion you promised in a Rose Garden appearance on March 17, 2002.

2. Last month it was reported that Mayor Bloomberg is concerned that up to $2.6 billion in aid may never be realized because the tax credits were over-valued. Do you agree with this report that up to $2.6 billion of the tax credits may never be realized.

3. Considering that the $21.4 billion aid package to New York does not include any assistance for lost tax revenue or treatment for people who are sick and/or injured as a direct result of 9/11, and provides a much smaller percentage for hazard mitigation compared to that provided after all other disasters -- among other needs -- do you feel the announced aid to New York is adequate?

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Please note that this is not the first time we have written regarding this issue; rather it is the latest in a series of letters on this matter. Please also note that none of our previous letters have ever received a response. As a reference to our prior requests attached please find a list of letters to you and to OMB, which are all available online.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

JOSÉ E. SERRANO
Member of Congress

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

MAURICE D. HINCHEY
Member of Congress

EDOLPHUS TOWNS
Member of Congress

TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress

ANTHONY D. WEINER
Member of Congress

GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress

MAJOR R. OWNENS
Member of Congress

List of Letters

April 23, 2004 - Letter asking for an accounting of 9/11 aid after it was reported by Bob Woodward's book "Plan of Attack" that $700 million was secretly used in Iraq for war preparations. http://www.house.gov/maloney/issues/Sept11/04232004_Accounting_911_Aid_Ltr_to_POTUS.pdf

March 5, 2004 - Letter to OMB Director Joshua Bolton regarding the lack of any reporting over the last year. http://www.house.gov/maloney/issues/Sept11/TheChart/030504Bolten.pdf

September 11, 2003 - An accounting of assistance to New York on the 2nd anniversary of the attacks. http://www.house.gov/maloney/issues/Sept11/TheChart/ChartUpdate.pdf

September 11, 2003 - Letter to your office on the 2nd Anniversary of the attacks asking for a complete accounting.
http://www.house.gov/maloney/issues/Sept11/2yearslater/MaloneyMillerLettertoPOTUS.pdf

December 17, 2002 - A chart prepared in December 2002 seeking an accounting of assistance to New York. http://www.house.gov/maloney/issues/Sept11/TheChart/TheChart.pdf

December 17, 2002 - A letter to OMB Director Mitch Daniels asking for an accounting of assistance to New York. http://www.house.gov/maloney/issues/Sept11/TheChart/LettertoOMB.pdf