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## GRIMM DEMANDS HURRICANE SANDY CLAIMS EXTENSION Charges Donovan with weak, ineffective leadership

(STATEN ISLAND, NY) - Former Republican Congressman Michael Grimm today demanded that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) extend the final deadline for the Hurricane Sandy Claims Review program because many residents of the district he once served have still not been paid for their losses five years after the storm.

"The Sandy Claims Review deadline must be pushed to at least December 15th to assure all victims of the storm get the hearings they were promised and the money they deserve," Grimm said.

Sandy flood insurance claims were reopened in 2015 after CBS 60 Minutes exposed widespread fraud in payments to insured homeowners. Executives from FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) promised fraud-free reexamination of claims and rapid resolution in 90 days. It's been two years since claims were reopened, and the agency is still underpaying homeowners.

In an attempt to draw a close to their Sandy embarrassment, NFIP executives set an arbitrary October 25th deadline for the claims review. Critics say there's no way thousands of insured homeowners who have waited the longest can be properly reviewed by the deadline.

"I am so proud of the recovery work FEMA has done in recent storms. Their expertise is second to none and Director Brock Long has been a Godsend for the victims of Harvey, Irma and Maria," Grimm said. "But it's unconscionable that the Agency's National Flood Insurance Program is turning their back on the New Yorkers who have waited the longest to be properly paid on their flood insurance."

"I implore Director Long to do the right thing for the survivors he inherited from the Obama Administration," Grimm said. "Mr. Director, there are still hurricane victims to save right here in Staten Island and Brooklyn."

Grimm, who announced a primary challenge of Rep. Donovan for New York's 11th Congressional District on Sunday, worked tirelessly, block by block, with his constituents after Superstorm Sandy. "I remember the suffering like it was yesterday. It disturbs me to no end to know so little work has been done in Washington to help the victims of Sandy who, on the five year anniversary of the storm this month, are still suffering," he said.

Congressman Grimm is urging all people who support extension of the arbitrary deadline to sign an online petition at <http://michaelgrimm2018.com/sandy.html>.

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