

JOSH GOTTHEIMER
5TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY



213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4465

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2019

Mayor Daniel Conkling
Mayor
Green Township
PO Box 65
150 Kennedy Road
Tranquility, NJ 07879-0065

Dear Mayor Conkling,

I am reaching out to share an important notice about recently announced USDA disaster relief loans and loan servicing provisions pertaining to farmers of New Jersey's Fifth District, for which applications are due by **December 10, 2019**. Following incidents of excessive precipitation in July 2018, the USDA determined that there were significant crop production losses to trigger a Secretarial Disaster Designation.

In order to be eligible for the USDA disaster relief loans, individuals must maintain status as established farmers who suffered a 30% loss in production due to July 2018 storms and additionally, they must be able to submit a declination of credit from an organized commercial lending institution. Funds may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the family farming operation, or refinance certain non-real estate operating debts.

You can learn more about the program on [this website](#), and also by contacting our local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. I have listed their information below for your reference.

USDA Farm Service Agency
101 Bilby Rd
Hackettstown, NJ, 07840
P: 908-852-2576

If a farmer in the community does not meet the thresholds of the Disaster Designation, but also suffered significant production losses due to weather-based disaster, assistance may still be available from USDA. Programs that may apply to this criteria include the Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program, Emergency Conservation Program: Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program, Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, and/or the Tree Assistance Program. Please visit [this website](#), and reach out to the FSA office for guidance on this issue.

My team and I are eager to help you take advantage of this loan opportunity and other federal programs. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Gonnelli in my Glen Rock office at lauren.gonnelli@mail.house.gov or by phone at (201) 389-1100 for assistance. You can also find me at josh.gottheimer@mail.house.gov.

I want to be of all possible assistance for my constituents. I look forward to working with you to help claw back more of your hard-earned New Jersey tax dollars that are sent to Washington. Please know that my door is always open to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Gottheimer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Gottheimer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS