



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 15, 2021

**CONTACT:**

[Thomas Pietrykoski@booker.senate.gov](mailto:Thomas.Pietrykoski@booker.senate.gov)

**Booker, Sherrill Urge FEMA to Expedite Revision of Pequannock Flood Maps**  
*Lawmakers cite the adverse impacts that delays have had on homeowners across the Morris County town*

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11) urged the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to swiftly resolve outstanding issues with the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), a tool used to define areas at high risk for flooding, for the Township of Pequannock. [In a letter](#) to FEMA leadership, the lawmakers cite the negative impacts the delays have had on homeowners, and how the current health crisis has only magnified the economic hardship on families.

“We urge you to take swift action to resolve outstanding issues with the preliminary map, and to work collaboratively with the Township of Pequannock to finalize an accurate map that accounts for all relevant technical information,” **the lawmakers wrote.** “These extensive delays have created real and tangible adverse impacts on Pequannock and our constituents. In addition to the costs and resources expended by this small community to appeal these maps, the pFIRMs have caused great uncertainty in the housing market and requirements for flood insurance.”

The preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (pFIRM) for Morris County were released in 2016, which were then appealed by the Township of Pequannock. Sen. Booker first wrote to FEMA [in 2019](#) to urge them to consider scientifically-relevant computer models that had been initially withheld from FEMA’s Scientific Review Panel due to a technicality. FEMA agreed to consider the data, and after many protracted delays, the Scientific Review Panel (SRP) ruled unanimously in the Township’s favor in June 2020, finding that the maps did not meet National Flood Insurance Program mapping standards. Since then, virtually no progress has been made in revising the maps, prolonging the adverse impacts to the housing market in this community.

“Under any circumstances, this economic uncertainty would be difficult to bear, but during the current pandemic, the impact is magnified,” **the lawmakers continued.** “Getting the final FIRM correct is clearly a matter of great economic significance to this town and its residents.”