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**Large Coalitions Win Input on NY State Sandy Recovery Spending
Advocacy Groups Call on Bloomberg to Follow Cuomo's Lead**

New York, NY—Today the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding, the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance and the Sandy Regional Assembly, the state's three major coalitions involved in Sandy relief and recovery efforts, announced that Governor Cuomo's administration has agreed to a request for more community input in New York's Sandy Recovery State Action Plan.

The groups have been concerned that an inclusive public process has been sacrificed for speed, and that funds will be spent on quick, shoddy fixes and low-wage jobs instead of supporting the real recovery of Sandy-devastated communities. The groups jointly told the Cuomo administration they want to be more involved developing a just rebuilding agenda.

The Action Plan for Disaster Recovery, which will drive crucial investment decisions about how to invest some of the billions in New York's federal Sandy recovery and rebuilding funds, was released just a week ago. The Cuomo administration initially provided only the federal minimum of 7 days for public comments on the plan. After a joint request from the coalitions, the Cuomo administration agreed to publish and respond to ongoing input beyond the deadline.

Additionally, the Cuomo administration made a commitment to partner closely with grassroots groups working on the ground to ensure that Sandy rebuilding efforts address the short-term and long-term needs of the most vulnerable New Yorkers in the hardest-hit communities.

"Many New Yorkers whose lives and communities were destroyed by Sandy have felt shut out of the rebuilding and recovery process over the past few months. We applaud Governor Cuomo's administration for taking real steps to include more community input and frontline recommendations in the state's Action Plan for Disaster Recovery," **said Eddie Bautista, Executive Director of the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance.**

The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance, and the Sandy Regional Assembly called on Mayor Bloomberg to follow the important precedent for Sandy recovery that Governor Cuomo's administration has now established. New York City's Action Plan is set to be released in the coming days.

"Mayor Bloomberg should follow Governor Cuomo's lead to ensure that community input guides the city's approach to recovery and rebuilding. We propose at least a fourteen day public comment period for New York City and proactive outreach to all organizations that have been in touch with the city regarding Sandy recovery," **said Deborah Axt, co-executive director of Make the Road New York and a spokesperson for the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding.**

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