September 14, 2001

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I want to thank the President and the leadership of the Congress for their support and immediate response to the tragic events that have transpired over the past few days. While the attack on the World Trade Center physically occurred in New York City, the emotional physical, and financial tolls will be felt throughout the Metropolitan area but especially in northern New Jersey.

I have heard estimates that over 50 percent of the people employed at the World Trade Centers were New Jersey residents. The Port Authority which is headquartered at the centers is a joint, bi-State New York/New Jersey agency that coordinates infrastructure needs for the airspace, mass transit, and commuter needs of our area. When the port rebuilds, it will rebuild as a joint entity.

Fire, medical and emergency personnel and equipment, as well trades workers and their heavy equipment, hospitals and triage centers as well as transportation equipment shuttling the wounded and rescuers all have emanated from New Jersey communities.

Let me share with my colleagues a few examples:

Six hundred wounded were transferred to New Jersey hospitals for treatment. Jersey City Medical treated 150 people; 21 were admitted overnight; St. Francis Hospital/St. Mary’s in Jersey City treated 50 people and UMMDNJ in Newark treated and released 17 victims.

The New Jersey State Police mobilized 40 boats to ferry victims across the Hudson River and State Troopers have been sent to sort through rubble. New York Waterway has put all 24 of its ferries into service, transferring free of charge an estimated 200,000 people.

The New Jersey National Guard established a field hospital at Liberty State Park that evaluated 2,600 people. At the Meadowlands, a makeshift hospital with hundreds of ambulances and 50 surgeons was created.

The Jersey City Fire Department sent 4 fire trucks and Union County has sent 24 fire trucks and over 100 fire fighters. Trenton has sent 19 ambulance/paramedic teams. Middlesex County sent 42 ambulances, 20 fire trucks and 70 police officers. Burlington County in southern New Jersey sent 20 ambulances.

The South Jersey Urban Rescue Team which specializes in confined spaces rescue has been there from day one on 24-hour rotating duty because the heroic New York City teams were wiped out in the first minutes. The cost of this effort has already reached $150,000.

Regular fire personnel from Elizabeth have been dispatched to Staten Island to free Staten Island Fire personnel to help.

The Sheriff’s and Prosecutor’s Office in Hudson County fully appreciate the direct assistance New York City has conservatively incurred $50,000 in expenses. In Jersey City there are 60 officers working full time and countless numbers of fire fighters and equipment making a major supply effort to New York via the Jersey City waterfront.

The North Hudson Regional Fire Co. has spent over $150,000 on overtime, personnel, and equipment.

Mr. BYRD. There are many more examples of the selflessness and sacrifice taking place, not just from New Jersey but across the country.

I appreciate that the physical attack did not occur on New Jersey soil and that is why New Jersey is not referenced in this emergency appropriation as a location where the terrorist attack occurred as New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania are listed.

However, it is important to acknowledge and fully appreciate the human and financial expenses incurred by the neighboring areas and that these areas be able to apply directly to the Federal Government for reimbursement.

Mr. President, it is my understanding that the specific State listings in the supplemental specifically refer only to the physical locations where the attacks occurred and do not establish an exclusive list of areas eligible for financial assistance from this Federal aid package.

Mr. CORZINE. I want to first associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from New Jersey and I would further appreciate the opportunity to clarify one additional point with my colleague from West Virginia. I understand that New Jersey was not listed because an attack did not physically occur there; however as my colleague, Senator TORRICELLI has stated, our State and communities have incurred significant human and financial costs in responding to this disaster.

I would appreciate your acknowledgement that the State of New Jersey on its local communities who have incurred expenses in the relief effort, will be able to apply directly to the Federal Government for the assistance provided under this aid package.

Mr. BYRD. It is my understanding that New Jersey is eligible to apply for any authorized disaster relief program in the same manner and under the same conditions as New York, Connecticut, Virginia, and other affected States.

Mr. TORRICELLI. I appreciate Senator BYRD’s statement clarifying this issue.