

WASHINGTON, DC – Senator **Joseph Lieberman** (I-CT), Senator **Richard Blumenthal** (D-CT), and Representative **Joe Courtney**

(D-CT) today announced that the town of Pomfret has received a USDA Earth Day 2012 Project grant.

Pomfret has been approved for a \$4,425,000 loan and, additionally, has been awarded a grant of \$1,475,000. These funds will be used towards a sewer system extension project that will connect existing infrastructure to the nearby town of Killingly. This project will extend reliable wastewater service to several local schools and businesses.

This is the fourth year in which the USDA has honored Earth Day by providing grants and loans to key wastewater development projects across the United States. The USDA's Rural Development 'Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program' was established to provide grants to municipalities, counties, and other public entities in order to develop water and waste disposal systems in areas with a population of 10,000 or less.

"Supporting the expansion of essential services to underserved areas is vitally important," said **Lieberman**

. "It is also important as we celebrate Earth Day that we remember the role clean water plays in our environment."

"This federal program encourages and enables local communities like Pomfret to develop and install critical wastewater disposal systems, reducing pollutants in our rivers and streams," said **Blumenthal**

. "On Earth Day, we celebrate our natural resources and this grant ensures that those resources are protected for our children."

"Improving and protecting water quality in eastern Connecticut's rural areas is a sound investment," said **Courtney**. "By connecting reliable wastewater service to schools and businesses in Killingly and Pomfret, this investment today will benefit current and future generations of residents."

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