

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Rep. Joe Courtney praised the White House’s decision to expand its April 23 major disaster declaration for the State of Connecticut to include aid to individuals and homeowners in additional counties that were ravaged by the severe storms and flooding that occurred between March 12, 2010, through May 17, 2010.

“This is great and long overdue news for eastern Connecticut,” Courtney said. “Having seen the damage for myself firsthand after the storm, I knew how clear the need was. It was a bad call from the beginning to deny Connecticut’s appeal based solely on state boundaries. Since the initial rejection, I have worked with state officials, the Connecticut Department of Homeland Security, my colleagues and the Governor to build a strong case for appeal. I have been closely and repeatedly in contact with the White House throughout the process, and made one last direct plea for assistance on the day the appeal was submitted. Finally with this ruling, the people who were affected by these terrible storms can begin to put the pieces back together.”