

**WASHINGTON, DC** –“ Congressman Joe Courtney announced today that the Groton-New London Airport has received a \$ 6,029,987 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. The funds will be used for Phase 1 of a Safety Area Improvements project for Runway 5-23.

“I am pleased to announce funding for these safety improvements at Groton-New London Airport,” said Courtney. “This project will make for a safer environment at an airport that has unique terrain and features. For passengers, employees and the surrounding area, it is great news.”

Groton-New London Airport is constrained by a river and tidal wetlands. The funds allocated are for one of two project phases intended to achieve runway end safety. They will be used for the purchase of an Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS) arrestor bed, which is a light-weight, concrete block system used to assist in stopping any aircraft that may overrun the runway. Beds will be placed at both ends of Runway 5-23.

The EMAS system is specifically designed for Groton-New London Airport using federal guidelines. It is based on the physical characteristics of the airport as well as aircraft that use the facility.